STOURBRIDGE
thechronicle
FEBRUARY 3, 2011
15p when sold

Heroic soldier set to scale new heights and back charity

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Loco society libel action nightmare comes to an end

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Colonel to head new air accident branch

Colonel Mike Smith

A TOP SOLDIER brought up in Stourbridge has been put in charge of setting up a new branch to investigate all British military air accidents.

Mike Smith, aged 43, who was awarded the military OBE in the New Year Honours list and has just been promoted to Colonel, went to Stourbridge's Old Swinford Hospital School.

And he says he launched into his army career after being inspired by his time as a member of the school's Combined Cadet Force. Col Smith, who has flown as a helicopter pilot as well as commanding a regiment in Iraq and Afghanistan, is now based in Farnborough, Hampshire, where he is in the process of setting up the military air accident investigation branch.

"We will be responsible for investigating every accident involving an aircraft from the army, navy or RAF. This means that we need to be prepared and ready to deploy to places like Afghanistan," he said.

"I will have a small team of about 20 people and will be able to call upon other technical experts. The accidents may sometimes be really minor – but even something relatively insignificant can teach us valuable lessons."

Rugby

Col Smith, whose parents Vernon, a 77-year-old retired steel company director, and Patsy, live in Pedmore, Stourbridge, fondly recalls his time at Old Swinford Hospital School, where much of his time was devoted to the CCF and playing rugby. "It was part of something quite rooted in my ambitions – I was remarkably blinkered and single-minded, I wanted to join the army," he said.

He enrolled for officer training at Sandhurst in 1985 and, after being commissioned, spent nine years in the infantry before being seconded to the air corps.

Col Smith, whose brother, Rob, aged 47, is a member of the Fleet Air Arm, qualified as a helicopter pilot in 1995 and progressed to commanding a squadron.

Before his recent promotion he was Lt Col in charge of 1 Regiment Army Air Corps, serving in Iraq during 2009 and then Afghanistan in 2010.

His military OBE was awarded for his role on operational tours in the last two and a half years.

"I'm thrilled to have reached this stage," said Mike, whose wife is called Amanda.

The couple have three daughters: Twins Katy and Pippa, aged 13, and Hannah, seven.

SUBWAY SET FOR FACELIFT

By Sarah Hazelwood

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STOURBRIDGE'S main subway will undergo a complete makeover as part of the town's £7million project.

The new "Stourbridge Interchange", which will replace the old bus station stands, will see the existing adjacent subway through to the town centre partly demolished.

It will then be re-built and re-aligned so that it emerges within the new concourse.

WALKWAY

The underpass, which will run from Foster Street, will feature CCTV, improved lighting and new tiling. It will also lead into a new covered walkway to provide a sheltered link to the rail station.

A Centro spokesman said: "The safety and wellbeing of passengers is paramount which is why CCTV and new lighting is being installed to ensure that people have as pleasant and as safe an environment as possible when using the subway and the interchange itself. The site will also feature help points and an internal public address system plus toilets and electronic passenger information boards."

Transport authority Centro says the new facilities will provide a "landmark gateway" to the town.

The piles of rubble currently on the site will be crushed and re-used to form the base of the building and up-graded underpass.

Phase two of the renovation work is due to commence in the next few weeks.

Margaret Scott, chair of the Stourbridge Township Council, said: "The new subway is definitely going to benefit the town and those walking through from the station.

"With CCTV and better lighting this will make users of the underpass feel much safer while creating a good impression for those visiting the town.

"The old subway was horrible to walk through and horrible to look at. It has been in desperate need of an improvement for a long time.

"Hopefully the improvements will cut down on the crimes that have occurred under there in the past.

"The project is something for the good of the town and I hope it will encourage more people to visit Stourbridge on a regular basis."

A free shuttle bus service, which has been operating since the old station closed in October, has been extended due to popular demand.

Around 300 people a day have been using the shuttle bus, prompting transport chiefs to extend it until April 23.

TRACK

The travel concourse, which is due to open to passengers in early 2012, is being completed by building contractors Interserve.

Project manager Andy Robinson, said the building work was on track to be completed by the end of the year.

"The project is going well," he said.

"We are just finishing all the demolition and preparatory work before the main construction works begins."

Bus station – Page 3

Fresh start for fitness

Centre supervisor Nikki Tranter promotes the new fitness classes

FITNESS fanatics can kick start their campaign at a free one-off body combat class in Stourbridge.

The Crystal Leisure Centre, on Bell Street, is hosting the 45-minute workshop on Sunday February 6, at 10.30am.

The class, which is based on martial arts, draws many of its moves from karate, Tae Kwan Do, Kung Fu, kickboxing, Muay Thai and Tai chi.

Instructor Clare Minto, said: "These technique workshops are ideal for building confidence and self-esteem.

"We will go through the basics, stripping the moves down to allow everyone to develop at their own pace, while hopefully getting them motivated to come along to one of our regular classes."

One-hour sessions run every Wednesday from 7.50pm, Friday from 9.30am and Sunday from 11.30am. Each one costs £4.40. For details or to book, call 01384 812912, or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/sport.

Big night of fundraising for children

STOURBRIDGE musician Ian Parker is launching a major fundraising concert night to help disabled children.

Parker will perform at the Up Close and Acoustic night on Thursday, February 17 at The Robin 2 in Bilston.

Birmingham's Steve Gibbons, Scott Matthews of Wolverhampton and Kidderminster band Lucy and the Rambler will also play in aid of the Newlife Foundation for Disabled Children.

The idea is the brainchild of Axelle Parker, who works for Cannock-based Newlife, and her husband Ian.

He said: "Originally it was just going to be my gig, but the idea snowballed!"

Mrs Parker said: "The line up of top-quality artists from across the county is a great way of showing just what the West Midlands has to offer."

Elusive

Ian Parker has headlined shows all over the UK and Europe while Scott Matthews won the Ivor Novello Award for his song "Elusive".

Steve Gibbons has been a fixture on the live circuit since the 60s, with The Uglies and The Steve Gibbons Band.

Cousins Lucy May Gill and Danny J Gauden have been writing together since they were 14. They formed folk/blues band Lucy and the Rambler last year.

Newlife funds equipment and research and also offers support services through nurses.

It aims to raise £26,691 to help nine children. Tickets cost £15 from 01543 462777 or aparker@newlifecharity.co.uk

Sausage success for pupils

TWO Hagley Catholic High School pupils have scooped awards in a major food competition.

Thirteen-year-olds Nicholas Borghesi and Lucy Smith were honoured in the final of the West Midlands Schools best banger competition at The Mailbox, Birmingham last week.

Nicholas was highly commended and Lucy commended in the event, which attracted more than 200 entries.

Pupils were asked to submit a recipe for a sausage using locally sourced ingredients and design a promotional poster.

Successful recipes were turned into the real thing by a local butcher and taste tested by a panel of judges.

Nicholas's Three Counties Sausage included Gloucester Old Spot pork, Lincoln Longwool mutton, rosemary, thyme, parsley, lavender, Shropshire damsons, garlic and Three Counties gourmet white wine and chilli mustard.

Lucy's sausage was The Blue Banger, including pork from Bredon Hills, egg, Stilton, salt, pepper, garlic and sage.

Secrets of magic

A MAGICIAN will appear at the next Hagley Wives and Women's Fellowship meeting to reveal the mysterious tricks of his trade.

Neil Roberts will lift the lid on magic clubs and societies in his talk, The Secret Life of the Magician, on Tuesday, February 8, at 8pm, in St Saviour's Church Hall, Park Road.

The group's following meeting will be on Tuesday, February 22, also at 8pm. Guest speakers Eugene and Margaret Schellenberg will give a presentation about the Ifakara Bakery project in Africa.

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Blinded rifleman is set to tackle mountain challenge for charity

Heroic soldier ready to scale new heights

Paul in Afghanistan before he was injured

A DEVASTATING Taliban bomb blast blinded him and left him fighting for his life. But Black Country soldier Paul Jacobs, awarded the George Medal for his bravery, is ready to take on a new challenge – climbing a 20,000ft mountain for charity.

Rifleman Jacobs, aged 21, and serving with the 2nd Battalion The Rifles, was left sightless when a bomb was detonated as he was serving in Afghanistan in 2009.

The bomb killed two of his comrades and embedded shrapnel in his eyes. But after 18 months of treatment and recovery, he plans to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, be the first blind man to swim the Channel – and has fallen in love with the hospital worker who helped nurse him to health.

Heroic soldier Rifleman Paul Jacobs is aiming to raise £8,000 for the charity that helped him recover after he was blinded while on service in Afghanistan. He tells **CHARLOTTE CROSS** about his mountain climbing challenge

"It was hard. At the beginning it was very difficult to deal with," he says. "But I'm not the kind of guy to let it get the best of me – I'm just trying to get on with it now. There's no keeping this ginger nut down."

Rfn Jacobs was awarded the George Medal for his "faultless courage, selflessness and dedication to his unit", helping to evacuate his comrades from the danger zone, despite being seriously injured.

He was flown to Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham for treatment, where he met military ward healthcare assistant Louise Smith, 24, in September 2009 and proposed on her birthday, February 18.

Louise – who has worked at the hospital where seriously injured British troops are treated for just over a year – says: "He slowly made an impression on me. He's always joking, he never stops."

Asked what attracted her to Rfn Jacobs, she said: "I can't pinpoint one thing. You just get to know the guys when they're on the wards.

"You have to have a laugh with them. It's more uplifting than being serious about things because some of the situations are really sad. I consider it part of the job."

Rfn Jacobs moved from London to Stourbridge to be with her after they got engaged. The wedding will be at Worcester in April.

"I leave all the planning to her – all I have to do is show up and say 'yes'," he jokes. "Then I can start wearing slippers and enjoying married life."

Louise's father Peter, 49, of Lawn Avenue, Stourbridge, will tackle Mount Kilimanjaro with him as they try to raise cash for charity St Dunstan's, which provides help and support to blind ex-servicemen.

"I've already done the London Marathon and an Olympic-sized triathlon. Just because I can't see doesn't mean I have to be held back," says Rfn Jacobs.

"I'm doing it for St Dunstan's as they have been a real lifeline. This is my way of giving something back."

He said St Dunstan's built up his confidence in using computers and walking with a white cane.

The pair are looking forward to tackling the 19,685ft-high mountain, Africa's highest peak and the tallest free-standing mountain in the world.

Fitness

He and Mr Smith, a heating engineer for TDR Mechanical Ltd in Pensnett, are currently training to build up their fitness. They will face six hours of gruelling climbing each day – a test of mental and physical stamina – and hope to raise at least £8,000 for St Dunstan's.

Rfn Jacobs says: "It's one of the toughest challenges I've faced but I won't give up until I reach the summit."

After winning the George Medal, he spoke of the harrowing incident that left him blind.

"Another lad from the platoon decided to do a small search up an alleyway and he tripped a device, killing him.

"There was nothing left of him."

There was a second explosion and then another blast which killed a second colleague and injured him.

"I can't really remember too much apart from seeing (the fallen soldier) and then waking up in Selly Oak."

To sponsor the Kilimanjaro expedition go to the website at http://www.justgiving.com/ or make cheques payable to St Dunstan's and post them to the fundraising department at 12-14, Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD, stating the payment is for Rifleman Paul Jacobs' Mount Kilimanjaro challenge.

Recovering at Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham

Rifleman Paul Jacobs is to climb Mount Kilmanjaro in aid of St Dunstan's. He is pictured with St Dunstan's trustee David Stuttard

Paul with his fiancee Louise Smith, age 24

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Rebuild's just the ticket for bus HQ

FORMER bus stands and a large retaining wall at Stourbridge bus station have been reduced to rubble to await a £7million replacement complex.

The debris will be crushed and re-used to form the base of the new building in Foster Street East.

Work will start on the foundations for the new bus station in weeks once work is completed to replace the old subway.

Lighting will also be improved during the project to create a "transport hub", improving links between the bus station and Stourbridge Town rail station.

Project manager Andy Robinson, of construction firm Interserve, said the building work was on track to be completed by the end of the year.

"The project is going well. We are just finishing all the demolition and preparatory work before the main construction works begins."

Demand

The Stourbridge Interchange, due to open in early 2012, will include a shop, improved concourse and electronic passenger timetable boards. CCTV, help points and a public address system will also be installed.

A free shuttle bus service, which has been operating since the old station closed in October, has been extended due to popular demand.

Around 300 people a day have been using the service, prompting transport chiefs to extend it until April 23 when they will again look at numbers again to see if it is worth continuing.

Temporary bus stops have been installed in Birmingham Street, High Street, Market Street and Parkfield Road.

The shuttle bus operates 8am to 6pm, Monday to Saturday.

Above: How it is – contractors Terry McDonald and Andy Robinson on the site now

Left: How it was – the old Stourbridge bus station before it was demolished

Below: How it will be – a computer generated image

Big shake-up in process of applying for a home

THE application process for a council house in Dudley has been overhauled as part of an attempt to tackle the borough's waiting lists.

Changes include cutting the target time for processing applications from eight weeks to two or three weeks by giving all new applicants an interview with a housing adviser rather than hand a form in.

The authority also wants to cut the amount of time a house is empty when someone moves out. Under the new system applicants will be able to view a vacant property and the housing manager will explain any works that will be carried out prior to moving in.

Single

Currently applicants can view a property only once it is ready to move into.

The waiting list for a council house in the Dudley borough stands at 7,677 – including existing tenants looking to transfer to a new property. That is up from 7,098 last year.

There are 353 larger houses occupied by a single person.

Dudley Council says the aim of the review has been to find the most efficient way to help people find suitable housing.

It is the latest in a series of changes to the system including the introduction of a lettings service in 2008 to advertise available properties from the council and other social landlords.

Driver cut free from wreckage of crash

A DRIVER escaped serious injury when he was trapped in the wreckage of a crash between his van and a lorry which forced road closures in Lye.

The van driver, a man in his 60s, was cut from the Citroen Berlingo van by fire crews following the smash in Balds Lane, Lye, Stourbridge on January 26. He was taken to Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley, as a precaution.

Hayes Lane, Balds Lane and part of The Hayes was closed off.

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Tom charts career as youngest Boat Master

A BOAT-LOVING teenager from Netherton has spoken about his golden opportunity to make a career from his life-long passion.

Tom Downing, aged 18, of Swan Street, could become one of the country's youngest Boat Masters after taking over the helm of The Blackcountryman narrow boat, which hosts pleasure cruises, comedy nights and historical tours of Stourbridge's glass industry.

The boat, which is usually moored at The Bonded Warehouse, off Canal Street, Stourbridge, lost its long-serving captain and trip operator, Mick Bourne, when he retired last year.

Retiring trip organiser Mick Bourne

Tom at the age of 10 with brother Ben, five, parents Andy and Deb and grandparents John and Mary. Andy made the boat Henry Cleaver II from a steel shell

Tom said: "For this chance to come along now is perfect. It's a golden opportunity and I can't wait to make the most of it."

His father is a marine engineer and Tom followed him around the dry dock in Stourbridge from an early age. His father also helped transform and update the boat ready for the new season.

Tom said: "Seeing my dad's work passed his passion for boats on to me. It made me want to do a similar thing myself.

Experience

"We've worked together on the boat which has been good, and he has the experience of working in the dry dock."

Tom has already worked as a mechanic after doing a training course when leaving school, but the job didn't quite work out.

He will take a test in March to gain a Boat Masters licence, and then be able to take charge of the boat for the new season of trips which starts on April 9.

"To think about my first season is nerve-wracking, but I'm excited about it too," he added.

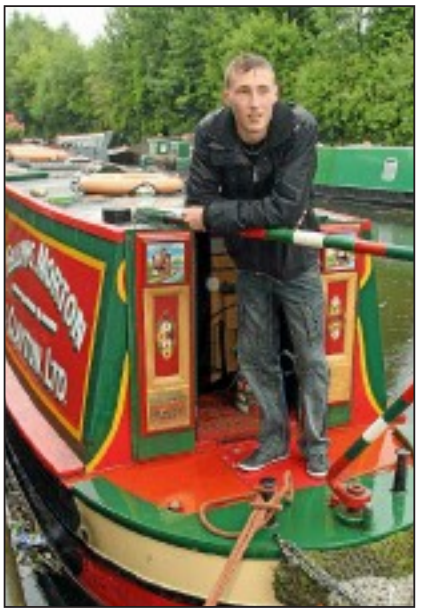
Tom worked as an assistant to Mr Bourne during last year's season, so has dealt with customers, as well as handling the boat.

Colin Clements, manager and director of boat owner Stourbridge Navigation Trust, said: "Last year will have been an eye opener for Tom.

"He is a young entrepreneur and will be a breath of fresh air to the canals."

Graham Fisher MBE, former chairman of Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Society, said: "I've known Tom for a long time and he's an enthusiastic lad.

"He's got plenty of support and I'm sure I'm not alone in wishing him the best of luck."



Tom Downing hopes to get his Boat Masters licence

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thechronicle

Nature spot would be lost, say protesters

WALKERS and birdwatchers say access to "magnificent" views and nature will be lost if a public footpath at a Halesowen beauty spot is closed to make way for a new cricket club.

Residents launched their fight at a public inquiry. They want to save the path in Coombes Wood Green Wedge and stop another one being diverted. The plans are part of a development by St Modwen to build a new ground for Coombes Wood Cricket Club.

But campaigners say the area would be ruined for visitors.

John Ebrey, a surveyor for the British Trust for Ornithology, told the inquiry: "These two paths have facilitated the enjoyment of walkers for at least 90 years."

He said skylarks nested near to the paths and would not be seen from the diverted route.

Mr Ebrey and fellow residents including Halesowen North Councillor Jeff Hill confronted developers at the inquiry at Dudley Council House last week.

Effects

But Sarah Clover, for Dudley Council, said: "Many of the objections are centred around concerns about the effects of the development itself rather than the loss of the footpaths."

Council engineer David Jacobs said the diversion would add 10 minutes to a journey but the new path would be easier to walk on.

Planning permission was granted for the sports facility in September 2009. The inquiry decision will be made within nine weeks.

Third age learning launched

A GROUP which provides a learning environment for retired people has officially opened in Stourbridge.

The Stourbridge branch of the University of the Third Age (U3A) held its launch meeting recently and more than 200 people attended.

Interest was shown in a wide range of subjects including gardening, genealogy, art and craft, music, painting and languages in addition to activities such as theatre visits and walking.

It took place at New Road Methodist Church, where monthly meetings will be held from now on.

Members can enrol on Thursday, February 17 from 2pm.

Education and development officer Carol Milling, said: "It's vital for people in their later years to keep their mind and bodies active."

More details at www.u3a.org.uk

Mayor steps to charities' aid

The Mayor of Dudley Councillor Peter Miller with mayoress Hilary Miller

THE Mayor of Dudley is hosting a tea dance to raise money for his chosen charities.

People are invited to show off their dancing skills at Kingswinford Community Centre, High Street, Kingswinford, on March 14.

All proceeds made from the event will go to the mayor's charities which include the Thomas Pocklington Trust, Acorns Children's Hospice and the Alzheimer's Society. Councillor Peter Miller, Mayor of Dudley, said: "This is just one of a series of events we have to raise money for these very worthwhile charities.

"I hope to see as many people there on the day as possible."The event runs from 2-4pm and admission costs £2.50 which includes refreshments.

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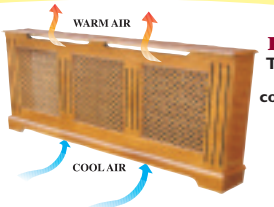

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thechronicle

Richard Corser

Torment is finally at an end as millionaire buys engine

Spectacular – the King Edward I in full steam

A MULTI-MILLIONAIRE has ended a three-year nightmare for a West Midlands-born accountant and hundreds of other railway enthusiasts in an amazing row over a locomotive.

Investment manager Jeremy Hosking is set to buy the steam engine in a deal that will pay off a bill of almost £350,000 run up by the rail buffs in a court case brought by their former chairman who lives in Birmingham.

Steve Underhill sued Tom Watson and Richard Corser for libel over a story in their quarterly newsletter "Kings Messenger" in autumn 2007.

All three had been members of the 6024 Preservation Society, set up to save the 70-year-old loco King Edward I.

Privilege

The story talked about work carried out on the engine at the Locomotive Works in Tyseley, Birmingham.

Mr Watson, who wrote the piece, claimed the comments enjoyed qualified privilege because they were only published for its 400 members.

But the claim was rejected because the magazine was also sent to 13 steam engine photographers who were ruled to be customers, not members of the Preservation Society.

> 'I risked losing everything and the Society faced being wound up'

Mr Corser, its treasurer, who was brought up in Halesowen, successfully argued that he was not responsible for either the writing of the article or its publication and was exonerated.

But Mr Watson, from London, was ordered to pay £7,500 damages to Mr Underhill – and the £335,000 costs of last year's case. The society picked up the bill after agreeing to indemnify both Mr Watson and Mr Corser during the action.

Mr Corser, aged 39, whose retired solicitor father and mother still live in Halesowen, said: "All I wanted to do was help to preserve and run a wonderful old steam engine.

Volunteers

"We were all volunteers but it descended into a nightmare in which I risked losing everything and the Society faced being wound up. It was very worrying for all of us but was especially bad for my wife Sarah and myself to have this horrible litigation hanging over us and the other defendant in the case for three years.

"It was very stressful and used up an enormous amount of my time."

By coincidence accountant Mr Corser was applying for the full-time paid post of general manager of 10 renovated steam engines bought by rail enthusiast Mr Hosking, a 52-year-old businessman with an estimated £180million fortune.

He got the job and Mr Hosking agreed that his Royal Scot Locomotive and General Trust, that has just been granted charitable status, would buy the King Edward I for an undisclosed sum.

The deal covers the costs and damages owed by the Society along with the price of an overhaul for the steam engine and a promise the members of the Society can run and maintain it on behalf of the Trust.

Incidents in the rail group which led to libel action

THE 6024 Preservation Society – named after the locomotive it was launched to save – was formed in 1973, 11 years after the King Edward I was sent to a scrap yard.

The 400 members of the Society, drawn from as far afield as America and Japan, took 12 months to raise the £4,000 needed to buy the hulk and transfer it to a railway centre in Buckinghamshire.

Private

They spent the following 16 years restoring it.

It was back in service by 1991, based at Didcot and available for private hire by tour operators at weekends.

It moved from base to base and spent several years at the Locomotive Works in Tyseley where it arrived in 1989.

During that stay the incidents occurred that led to the 2007 magazine comment and subsequent libel action.

Suggestions

The outcome prompted a crisis meeting of the society at Swindon last year where various suggestions were discussed. Then Mr Hosking came in with his offer of help.

It was accepted at another emergency meeting last month and the deal was due to be concluded within a few days.

One delighted member said: "The future had looked very bleak until recently but now it feels like we have won the lottery."

Steve Underhill holding a mug. To his right, Richard Corser (back to camera)

Loco was my life, declares the man who went to court

STEVE UNDERHILL has said his feelings for the engine and the society are buried.

The 58-year-old, who lives in Hall Green and is employed at the Locomotive Works in nearby Tyseley, said: "That engine was my life for a long time but I do not have a lot of feelings for it or the Society any more. Those are well and truly buried.

"I am sorry that it turned out this way but I never sued the Society.

"They decided to indemnify the two individuals I took to court and one of those was found guilty of libel. The Society has been lucky to get away with it in this way and to be able to carry on with their work on King Edward I.

"I had to defend my reputation but none of this has damaged my love for steam engines. I still work at Tyseley and am now employed on another locomotive."

Dave Fuszard from Wordsley, spokesman for the Society, said he was delighted that there had been a positive outcome to the saga. He said all he and his members wanted to do was to work on the engine and to enjoy their passion for steam.

And he criticised the outcome of the case and the financial burden it left the enthusiasts.

Proportion

He said: "It is my opinion that the costs of the case appear out of all proportion to the award of damages that was made by the court.

"None of us joined for this. We look forward to joining forces with Mr Hosking to work with him on King Edward I. He is giving us the chance to preserve a fine locomotive.

"All we ever wanted was to set an old loco steaming and working but a seemingly simple wish has caused hell and havoc for us all for three years."

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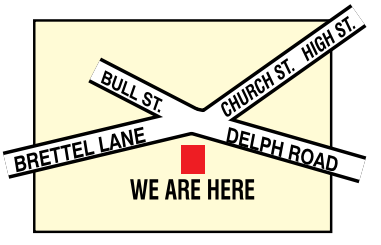

thechronicle

Tape recorders axed as police go digital

THEY'RE as much a part of latter-day policing as truncheons and pocketbooks.

But now West Midlands Police has called time on the interview room tape recorder – and with it up to 52 transcribers whose job it is to type up the words they capture.

The force says the old analogue technology used in traditional tape recorders is "outdated and increasingly unreliable", with some recordings being "poor and at times unusable" in court proceedings.

The digital system provides much higher quality sound and adds video footage of interviews.

And there is now a question mark over the future of the tape transcribers who work for the force, which is trying to save £125million and is expecting to axe more than 2,000 posts.

Transcribing of interviews will continue, but they can now be done centrally, by far fewer people. Thirty of the transcribers are full-time and 22 are part-time.

In a report to the West Midlands Police Authority, Chief Constable Chris Sims says: "This technology is now outdated and increasingly unreliable.

Costly

"Repairs are costly as spare parts become increasingly difficult to source.

"The quality of this most important element of evidence is often poor and at times unusable."

Mr Sims said the technology allowed officers to listen in to interviews from outside the room and give easy access to prosecutors who have to decide whether to charge a suspect.

Three copies of interviews are put onto disks to be given to police, Crown Prosecution Service and defence lawyers.

He said the current system with staff spread across the region to transcribe interviews was inefficient. Mr Sims added: "This will allow us to reduce the number of transcribers and supervisors."

Some stations, including Wolverhampton, are already using digital equipment and Staffordshire Police has already announced it is moving to digital equipment later this year.

Pc Andy Gilbert, of the West Midlands Police Federation, said: "If something comes along that makes things easier, people will go with it.

"Tapes are old hat and everything's going digital, it's natural progression."

Fruits of the vine

BOSSES at a Midland vineyard are looking forward to another record breaking year after a bumper crop in 2010.

Halfpenny Green Vineyard in Bobbington, near Stourbridge, produced enough grapes for 80,000 bottles of wine last year, double the normal amount.

And owner Clive Vickers said he hoped for more of the same over the next 12 months. He said: "We are looking forward to 2011.

"It should be a good one. We have 80,000 bottles of wine from 2010 to sell which is the most we have had in a number of years."

He said the bumper crop was down to the warmer weather in early summer and dry conditions during the harvest in October.

Halfpenny Green Vineyard owner Clive Vickers with some of his awards

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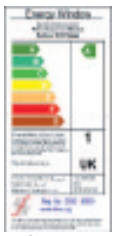

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thechronicle

Cricket book collection to aid students

A COLLECTION of cricketing books which belonged to a former Dudley headteacher has been donated by his family to help educate future generations.

John Read was the head of Jessons CE Primary School, Dudley, for more than 20 years, having devoted his entire working life to education.

An avid cricket fan the headmaster, who died in 1996, collected a number of books on the sport including Wisden reference guides and volumes about Worcestershire County Cricket Club.

Now his family is passing on the collection to the University of Worcester in his memory.

His nephew, Clive Read, said: "His love of learning and of making a difference was matched by his love of sport, especially cricket, and his lifelong following of Worcestershire CCC."

Mr Read, a partner and head of real estate at Birmingham-based law firm Martineau, added: "We wanted to do something with the books and following my work with the university as a member of the development committee, we wondered if they would like them."

Jacket

The university is establishing an international cricket degree, to be complemented by the development of the Worcester Arena due to open next year.

Some of the 50 books are signed and there are nine Wisden Almanacs, including a 1965 edition which was the first to have a dust jacket.

The collection will be catalogued and placed in the research collections for students to use.

Appeal in blitz on cons

PEOPLE in Dudley are being urged to hand over con letters they have been sent as trading standards officials join a national campaign to tackle fraud.

The Office of Fair Trading's deception awareness month, Scamnesty, runs until February 28.

As part of the campaign Dudley Council's trading standards team is asking people to drop any scam mailings they have received into "scamnesty" bins located across the borough.

The bins will be at Dudley, Brierley Hill, Halesowen, Stourbridge and Sedgley libraries.

Bins will also be placed at Age UK offices in Bird Cage Walk, Dudley, The Elton Centre at St John's, Stourbridge and The Junction, Cradley Road, Netherton and also at WRVS, Carlisle Hall in Stourbridge.

Mum stands tall after ordeal

Back on her feet – Teresa Langston with Unique Fitness manager Raj Kaur

A MOTHER-OF-TWO left in a wheelchair following a stroke has battled to walk again for short periods of time and made returning to work her next goal.

Determined Teresa Langston, aged 52, of Dudley, suffered severe bleeding to the brain in March 2007 leaving her with limited mobility.

But the former administrative worker was determined to get back on her feet – asking for more physiotherapy sessions.

She took matters into her own hands, joining the Unique Fitness gym, in Wellington Road, Dudley.

Mrs Langston, who uses a mobility scooter to get around, is now able to use a treadmill for four or five minutes at a time.

And although she is not strong enough to use weights or take part in classes she hopes to in the future.

She has also lost nearly two stone in weight since she started at the gym.

But she said her main aim was to get back into employment and is being supported by husband Phil, 21-year-old daughter Amanda and 12-year-old son James. Mrs Langston said: "People say I am an inspiration but I am only doing what has to be done."

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Artwork goes on display

COUNTRY scenes, portraits and still life drawings are among a collection of works by a Black Country art group going on display near Stourbridge.

Members of Brierley Hill Society of Artists are hosting the display at Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone until February 27.

The work is all created by the group, which is now in its 64th year. Pieces from the collection can be viewed for free over the next month and purchased from the visitor attraction, in High Street, Wordsley.

It is the sixth time that the cone has held the exhibition and it will be followed by a display of works by art and design students from Halesowen College called Moving on.

Look back at last year

HAGLEY Mothers' Union will be gathering in the village hall for a look back at 2010.

The branch AGM will be held, on Thursday, February 17 at 2.30pm, in St Saviour's Hall, Park Road.

This will be followed by a "quiet day" meeting on March 17, allowing for readings and meditations for Lent. It starts at 10am communion service and sessions in the church will follow.

Quartet of plays

FOUR plays are to be staged in Wombourne from February 16-19. Details: 01902 585808.

A batter way to go for Jazz

Jazz Johal celebrates being given five stars in the hygiene scheme

A FORMER Rover worker is cooking up success after risking a complete career change to open his own fish and chip shop in the Black Country.

Jaswinder Johal, known as Jazz, of Willenhall, was made redundant when the Longbridge plant closed in 2005 and searched fruitlessly for two years to find work.

After being told a fish and chip shop had come up for sale in Lower Gornal, he decided to take the plunge using the last of his redundancy money to buy the place. And the risk has paid off with Nemos, in Lake Street, proving a hit with customers and now gaining a top five-star award in Dudley Council's Scores on the Doors scheme.

The award is given to restaurants and takeaways found to have high standards of cleanliness and hygiene during a surprise inspection by officers. Mr Johal runs the shop with his wife Jasbir, known as Jazzy.

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Legends on history of Valentine cards

DID you know that approximately 141 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged annually, making Valentine's Day the second most popular card-sending holiday after Christmas?

The history of Valentine's Day - and its patron saint - is shrouded in mystery. But we do know that February has long been a month of romance.

St Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. So, who was Saint Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient rite? Today, the Catholic Church recognises at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred.

Approximately 85 per cent of all valentines are bought by females

One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men – his crop of potential soldiers.

Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When his actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons.

According to one legend, Valentine actually sent the first 'valentine' greeting himself. While in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young girl – who may have been his jailor's daughter – who visited him during his confinement.

Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed 'From your Valentine', an expression that is still in use today.

Anniversary

Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories certainly emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and, most importantly, romantic figure. By the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France.

While some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial – which probably occurred around 270 AD – others claim that the Christian church may have decided to celebrate Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to 'christianize' celebrations of the pagan Lupercalia festival.

In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the 17th century. By the middle of the 18th century, it was common for friends and lovers ito exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes. By the end of the century, printed cards began to replace written letters.

Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged.

Cheaper postage rates also contributed to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentine's Day greetings. Approximately 85 percent of all valentines are purchased by women.

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Big voice, bruised heart – Adele's 21 has lots of soul

ADELE – 21 (XL)

TWO years on from her hit debut 19 and, as well as the key to the door, Adele Adkins will find the key to the hearts of many more music lovers with this mature and often magnificent album of bluesy soul about bruised and broken hearts.

It opens with the rolling swampy blues thump of Rolling In The Deep and the north Londoner follows it with the better-than-Duffy retro soul pop of Rumour Has It.

The first of the big ballads which dominate this album is Turning Tables. The other songs which showcase a big powerful voice that is capable of tenderness too are the country-tinged Don't You Remember, Take It All and Someone Like You.

The pace is varied with the jazz-urban flavoured He Won't Go, 80s-like rocker Set Fire To The Rain, the gospel-influenced I'll Be Waiting and a gentle version of The Cure's Lovesong transported to Copacabana for a light bossa nova refit.

Which brings us to the final number, Someone Like You, a song about someone losing their lover to someone else and accepting they'll have to make do with second best. It's shivers down the spine time, like the first time you heard Sinead O'Connor sing Nothing Compares To You or Christina Aguilera warble Beautiful. Audiences will still be asking Adele to sing this one in years to come, even if she gets around to an album called 71.

All in all, an early contender for album of the year and possibly the best British album of its type since Dusty went to Memphis.

Adele will be in concert at Birmingham's HMV Forum on April 18.

Adele's powerful emotional vocals on new album 21 recall the late, great Dusty Springfield

BRUNO MARS – DOO-WOPS & HOOLIGANS (ELEKTRA)

The 25-year-old Hawaiian has a supple soulful voice with a hint of grit, first widely heard when he guested on rapper Travie McCoy's global hit Billionaire. His debut is almost a masterclass on how to make modern pop hits, full of bright-eyed positivism surging melodies, romantic yearning vocals and crisp state-of-the-art production. Stylewise, it ranges from power ballad to gentle reggae, and guests include B.O.B, Damian Marley and Cee Lo Green.

When an album starts with two pop songs as good as Grenade and Just The Way You Are, you are hooked, even if a couple of lesser tracks sound a bit like filler.

GLEE, THE MUSIC, VOLUME 4 (SONY MUSIC)

The cult TV show about a high school singing club is back on our screens and here is a selection of songs from season two, including Glee revamps of Empire State Of Mind, Billionaire, Toxic, Forget You (with Gwyneth Paltrow!) and Valerie. Highlights include Rachel's (Lea Michele) version of Paramore's The Only Exception, Kurt's (Chris Colfer) tender reboot of The Beatles' I Want To Hold Your Hand and – step forward Mercedes (Amber Riley) and Santana (Naya Rivera) – River Deep Mountain High.

THE STREETS – COMPUTERS AND BLUES (679 RECORDINGS)

Dry your eyes, yes this is Birmingham rapper/urban poet Mike Skinner's fifth and final album as The Streets but it will not be the last we hear of him. And he ends with a strong album, filled with melodic and lyrical hooks, wit and even a hint of optimism.

Blip On A Screen is about seeing your unborn child on a hospital scanner screen ("You're growing thumbs/I'm going numb/Tucked into your mum/Looks like it could be quite fun"). There are songs about conducting relationships via Facebook and spending too much time playing console games, and a potential hit single in Going Through Hell with Robert Harvey from the Music as guest singer. Say farewell to The Streets at Birmingham O2 Academy on February 25.

JAMES BLAKE (ATLAS/A&M)

A singer-songwriter for the dubstep generation, this young Londoner creates ethereal, ghost in the machine electro-ballads epitomised by this album's opener, the effects heavy Unluck. On Unluck Blake sounds like a broken hearted robot, if robots had hearts. For all its strangeness, there is something attractive and naggingly memorable about Blake's songs. One of the more conventional songs, a cover of Feist's Limit To Your Love, has already been a top 10 hit in several European countries.

Leon Burakowski

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Four pages of television starts – page 20

YOUR EIGHT-PAGE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE AND WEEK'S TV VIEWING

Round-up of shows – page 19

Reviews and gigs – page 24

How any dream came true

Liam Gallagher leads his new band Beady Eye to Wolverhampton

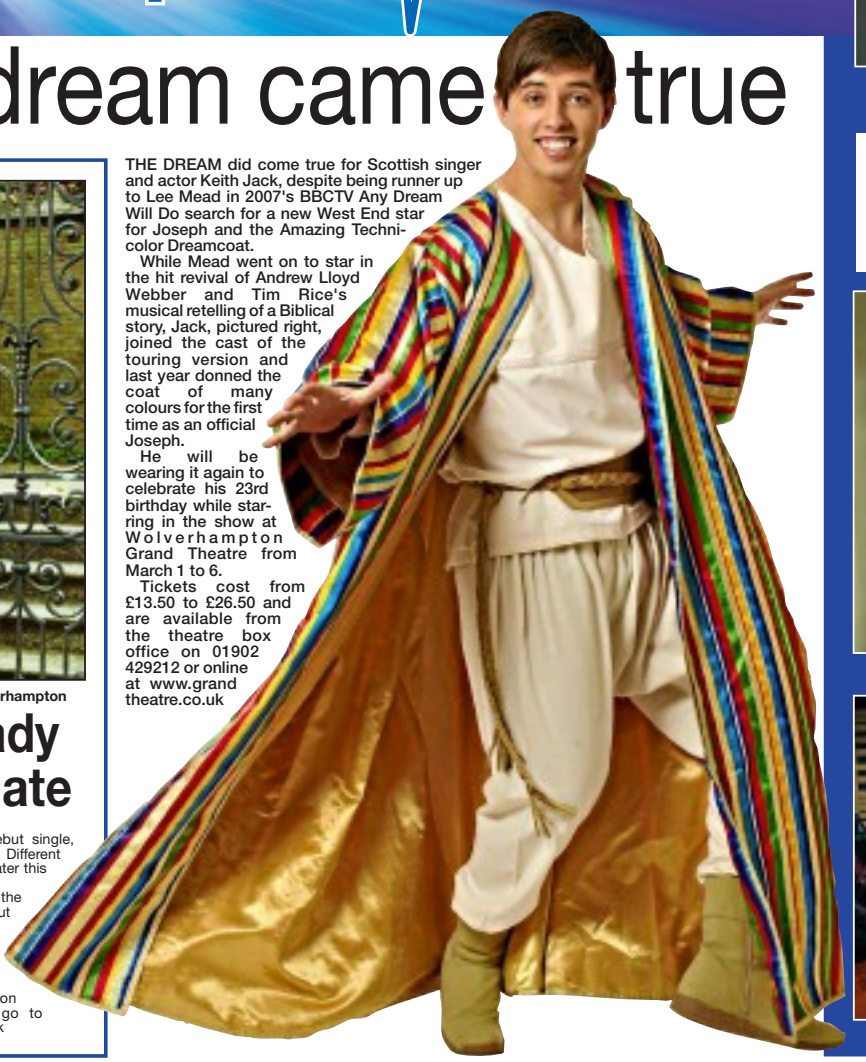
Liam has his Beady Eye on city tour date

BEADY Eye, the band formed by singer Liam Gallagher and other former members of the last incarnation of Oasis, come to Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Sunday, April 24, as part of their first UK tour.

The group was formed after the exit of Liam's brother, chief songwriter Noel Gallagher, meant the end of the hugely popular Britpop band.

In Beady Eye Liam is joined by guitarists Gem Archer (ex-Heavy Stereo) and Andy Bell (ex-Ride) with drummer Chris Sharrock (ex-La's). They release their debut single, The Roller, and album Different Gear, Still Speeding, later this month.

To get a preview of the band's songs check out their website – www.beadyeymusic.com – and for tickets, which are priced £27.50, contact Midland Box Office on 0870 320 7000 or go to www.wolvescivic.co.uk



THE DREAM did come true for Scottish singer and actor Keith Jack, despite being runner up to Lee Mead in 2007's BBCTV Any Dream Will Do search for a new West End star for Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

While Mead went on to star in the hit revival of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's musical retelling of a Biblical story, Jack, pictured right, joined the cast of the touring version and last year donned the coat of many colours for the first time as an official Joseph.

He will be wearing it again to celebrate his 23rd birthday while starring in the show at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from March 1 to 6.

Tickets cost from £13.50 to £26.50 and are available from the theatre box office on 01902 429212 or online at www.grandtheatre.co.uk

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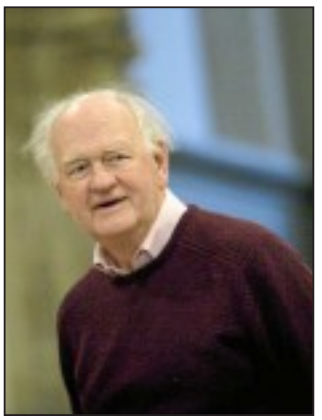
Play that will have you in tears

WARTIME weepy Goodnight Mister Tom is being brought to the stage at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Tuesday.

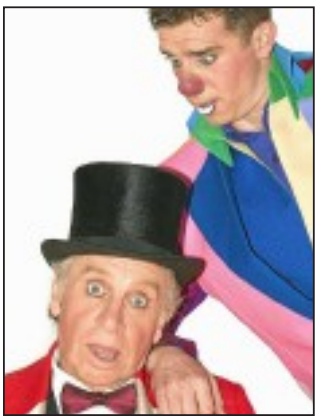
The play is an adaptation of Michelle Magorian's popular children's novel about how a young London evacuee with a sad secret forges a friendship with his cantankerous old host, the titular Mister Tom, in a rural community.

Playing Mister Tom, a role associated with the late John Thaw from a popular TV film version, is Royal Shakespeare Company actor Oliver Ford Davies, who will be familiar to fans of the blockbuster Star Wars movies as Sio Bibble in The Phantom Menace, Attack of the Clones and Revenge of the Sith. He was also Polonius to David Tennant's Hamlet at Stratford.

Goodnight Mister Tom is staged at the Grand nightly from February 8 to 12 with matinees on the Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. Tickets are priced from £6.50 to £22.50.



Oliver Ford Davies stars in Goodnight Mister Tom at The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton



Ringmaster Clive Webb and clown Danny Adams appear with Circus Hilarious

Hardeep Singh Kohli will brings his "chat show with curry" show to Wolverhampton

Joined

There is music and mirth at the Lichfield Street theatre this weekend with the Magic of Motown ensemble playing the Motor City's greatest hits in a soul tribute concert on Saturday.

Then modern day clown Danny Adams and ring master Clive Webb, father and son, are joined by the rest of the Circus Hilarious crew for family-friendly comedy at 1.30 and 6pm on Sunday.

The week after sees the return of Tamworth-based singing star Niki Evans as Mrs Johnstone in Willy Russell's classic Scouse musical Blood Brothers, at the Grand from February 14 to 19.

Craig Revel Horwood's flamboyant revival of 1980s musical Chess, created by the ABBA pair of Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus with Sir Tim Rice, returns to the West Midlands at Birmingham Hippodrome from Monday to the following Saturday.

Shona White stars as the woman caught between two Chess grandmasters, one Russian and one American, in the show which includes the hit songs I Know Him So Well and One Night In Bangkok.

Members of the Birmingham Royal Ballet move across the city centre from their home venue at the Hippodrome to the Symphony Hall for an evening of Music and Dance presented by the company's director David Bintley tomorrow night (Friday).

The show is the last hurrah of the company's 20th anniversary year in the city and will include highlights from the BRB's repertoire, including the much-loved Hobson's Choice and La Fille mal Gardee. Birmingham Rep's first off-site production is Kenny Baraka's musical post-apocalyptic tale The Rememberers, the one hour tale of a teenager who holds the key to mankind's future.

It will be held in a warehoue at the AE Harris Building in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter from tomorrow (Friday) to February 19. Contact the box office on 0121 236 4455.

Tribute

Circus of Horrors bring their modern day freak show to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Tuesday and it is for over 16s only.

The one-nighters at the Alex continue with a visit by psychic Sally Morgan on Wedneday.

Roger Dean and the Lazy Boys present their tribute to a country music legend in The Johnny Cash Story on Friday, February 11. Birmingham School of Acting's spring season includes Jewish drama A Dybbuk in the main house at The Crescent Theatre in Birmingham from February 9 to 12.

During the same period, BSA perform adults-only drama Piano/Forte in the Crescent's Ron Barber Studio.

Raconteur, cook and comedian Hardeep Singh Kohli follows up his Nearly Naked Chef show with Chat Masala, which he describes as a "chat show with curry".

The Glaswegian host will interview local guests, including Wolverhampton-born Times journalist Sathnam Sangera, author of The Boy with the Top Knot, and Black Country medium Philip Solomon, and everyone will get a chance to sample his curry. It takes place at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre on Wednesday, February 9.

Comedy highlights will also feature East End comic Micky Flanagan at Birmingham Town Hall on Sunday. That's the same venue for Punt and Dennis, They Should Get Out More show on February 9. John Shuttleworth will be at the Town Hall on February 10.

Culture

In Wolverhampton, comedienne Andi Osho, from Channel 4's Stand Up For The Week, is at The Slade Rooms on Sunday night as part of her first tour, Afroblighty. It tells of her inspiring culture clash upbringing as a child of Nigerian parents being brought up in London's East End.

The Broad Street venue also hosts Occult Comedian Andrew O'Neill on February 9.

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Choice

FAULKS ON FICTION
BBC2, 9pm

[illegible]

BBC1

[illegible]

BBC2

[illegible]

ITV1

[illegible]

Channel 4

[illegible]

Channel 5

[illegible]

Digital

[illegible]

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Choice

THE PROMISE
Channel 4, 9pm

Channel 4 may have been criticised in recent years for its ... [illegible]

BBC1

[illegible]

BBC2

[illegible]

ITV1

[illegible]

Channel 4

[illegible]

Channel 5

[illegible]

Digital

[illegible]

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the pulse

Monday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Save My Holiday. 11.45 Cash in the Attic. (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Inside Out. BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 WikiLeaks: The Secret Story: Panorama. 9.00 Outcasts. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 A Question of Sport. 11.05 Inside Sport. (R) 11.35 The Graham Norton Show. (R) 12.20 The Apprentice USA. Weatherview. 1.55 Sign Zone: Ancient Worlds. (R) 2.55 Climbing Great Buildings. (R) 3.25 Save My Holiday. (R) 4.10 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.45 Ready Steady Cook. 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Due South. (R) 1.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. 2.30 Climbing Great Buildings. (R) 3.00 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. (R) 3.45 Flog It! 4.30 Perfection. 5.15 Antiques Road Trip. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 One Man and His Campervan. 7.00 Top Gear. (R) 8.00 University Challenge. 8.30 Baking Made Easy. 9.00 Horizon: How to Survive a Car Crash. 10.00 Episodes. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Mad Men. 12.10 An Island Parish. (R) 12.40 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 May the Best House Win. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 The Lakes. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 The Biggest Loser. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Total Emergency. (R) 11.35 That Sunday Night Show. (R) 12.05 Grimefighters. (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 3.25 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.05 Sail Mail. (R) 6.10 The Treacle People. (R) 6.20 The Hoobs. (R) 6.45 The Hoobs. (R) 7.10 Freshly Squeezed. 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.05 Frasier. (R) 8.35 According to Jim. (R) 9.00 The Secret Millionaire USA. 10.00 Desperate Housewives. (R) 10.55 Relocation: Phil Down Under. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 The TV Book Club. 12.30 Film: Sailor of the King. (1953) Second World War adventure remake, with Jeffrey Hunter. 2.05 Cookery School. 3.10 Countdown. 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Jamie's 30 Minute Meals. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Dispatches: Tabloids' Dirty Secrets. 9.00 One Born Every Minute. 10.00 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. 11.05 The Joy of Teen Sex. (R) 12.10 Premier League Poker. 1.10 [illegible] 2.05 The Genius of British Art. (R) 3.00 Titanic: The Mission. (R) 3.55 Dispatches: Tabloids' Dirty Secrets. (R) 4.50 ER. (R) 5.35 Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.00 The Vanessa Show. 11.45 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 12.40 Five News. 12.45 Build a New Life in the Country. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 Home and Away. 2.50 The Family Recipe. (R) 2.55 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 3.10 Film: Lone Rider. (2008) Western, starring Lou Diamond Phillips. 5.00 Five News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 Zoo Days. (R) 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 How Do They Do It?; Five News Update. 8.00 Emergency Bikers: Paramedic Steve Harris helps a diabetic on the brink of a coma; Five News at 8. 9.00 Royal Navy Caribbean Patrol. 10.00 Film: Starship Troopers 3: Marauder. (2008) 12.10 America's Toughest Prisons. (R) 1.10 SuperCasino. 4.05 The FBI Files. (R) 4.55 Rough Guide to Bang for Your Buck. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Tuesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Save My Holiday. 11.45 Cash in the Attic. (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Holby City. 9.00 Outcasts. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Come Fly on the Wall. 11.35 Film: Road Trip. (2000) Comedy, starring Breckin Meyer; Weatherview. 1.10 Sign Zone: See Hear. (R) 1.40 Human Planet. (R) 2.40 The Bear Family and Me. (R) 3.40 Save My Holiday. (R) 4.25 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.45 Ready Steady Cook. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Due South. (R) 1.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. 2.30 Climbing Great Buildings. (R) 3.00 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. (R) 3.45 Flog It! 4.30 Perfection. 5.15 Antiques Road Trip. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 One Man and His Campervan. 7.00 Natural World. 8.00 A Farmer's Life for Me. The eight remaining pairs enter the world of pig-farming. 9.00 The Chinese Are Coming. China's role as a rising economic superpower. 10.00 How TV Ruined Your Life. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Mad Men. 12.10 Who Gets the Best Jobs? (R) 1.10 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 May the Best House Win. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 8.00 Lion Country. 9.00 Taggart. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The Secret Caribbean with Trevor McDonald. (R) 11.35 Cops with Cameras. (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 Crossing Jordan. 3.20 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.05 Sail Mail. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.25 According to Jim. (R) 8.55 The Secret Millionaire USA. 9.55 Desperate Housewives. (R) 10.55 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Film: Rooster Cogburn. (1975) Western sequel, starring John Wayne, Katharine Hepburn and Anthony Zerbe. 2.05 Cookery School. 3.10 Countdown. 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Jamie's 30 Minute Meals. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Gok's Clothes Roadshow. 9.00 Big Fat Gypsy Weddings. An insight into the lives of Britain's traveller men. 10.00 Shameless. 11.05 The Big C. 11.35 The Big Bang Theory. 12.15 UK & Ireland Poker Tour. 1.15 Bull Run. (R) 1.40 World B-Boy Series. (R) 2.35 FIS World Snowboarding Championships. (R) 3.00 Basketball. (R) 3.50 NOTV. 4.20 ER. (R) 5.05 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.00 The Vanessa Show. 11.45 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 12.40 Five News. 12.45 Build a New Life in the Country. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 Home and Away. 2.45 The Family Recipe. (R) 2.50 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 3.05 Film: For One Night. (2006) 5.00 Five News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 Zoo Days. (R) 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 Extraordinary Dogs; Five News Update. 8.00 Stansted: The Inside Story. New series. The work of staff behind the scenes at the UK's airports; Five News at 8. 9.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Human remains are discovered in the home of a compulsive hoarder. 10.00 CSI: Miami. (R) 10.55 CSI: NY. (R) 11.55 Law & Order. (R) 12.50 SuperCasino. 4.05 The FBI Files. (R) 4.55 Animal Rescue Squad. (R)

Wednesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. (R) 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Save My Holiday. 11.45 Cash in the Attic. (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Rip Off Britain. (R) BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Waterloo Road. 9.00 Forgotten Heroes: Panorama. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The National Lottery Wednesday Night Draws. 10.45 Film 2011 with Claudia Winkleman; National Lottery Update. 11.25 Film: Diabolique. (1996) Thriller remake, starring Sharon Stone and Isabelle Adjani; Weatherview. 1.15 Sign Zone: Country Tracks. (R) 2.10 Natural World. (R) 3.10 Save My Holiday. (R) 3.55 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Daily Politics. 1.00 See Hear. 1.30 The Hairy Bakers. (R) 1.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. 2.30 Climbing Great Buildings. (R) 3.00 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. (R) 3.45 Flog It! 4.30 Perfection. 5.15 Antiques Road Trip. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 One Man and His Campervan. 7.00 Escape to the Country. (R) 8.00 [illegible] 9.00 A History of Ancient Britain. 10.00 Have I Got Old News for You. (R) 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Mad Men. 12.10 The Chinese Are Coming. (R) 1.10 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 May the Best House Win. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Live International Football. Denmark v England (Kick-off 7.15pm). 9.30 Harry Hill's TV Burp. (R) 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 I Was There When the Beatles Played the Cavern. 11.35 International Football. 12.35 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 Film: The Thing. (1982) Sci-fi horror remake, starring Kurt Russell. 4.25 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.00 The Treacle People. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.25 According to Jim. (R) 8.55 The Secret Millionaire USA. 9.55 Desperate Housewives. (R) 10.55 Country House Rescue. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 River Cottage Bites. (R) 12.20 Film: Day of the Outlaw. (1959) Western, starring Robert Ryan and Burl Ives. 2.05 Cookery School. 3.10 Countdown. 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Jamie's 30 Minute Meals. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Beauty and the Beast: Ugly Face of Prejudice. 9.00 Mary Portas: Secret Shopper. 10.00 The Joy of Teen Sex. 11.05 Shameless. (R) 12.05 Music on 4: Sounds from the Cities. 12.40 Music on 4: The Album Chart Show Spotlight. 12.55 Music on 4: Mercury Prize Sessions. (R) 1.10 My Family's Crazy Gap Year. (R) 2.05 Animal Madhouse. (R) 3.00 Food: What Goes in Your Basket? (R) 3.55 ER. (R) 5.20 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.00 The Vanessa Show. 11.45 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 12.40 Five News. 12.45 Build a New Life in the Country. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 Home and Away. 2.50 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 3.05 Film: Mary Higgins Clark's Pretend You Don't See Her. (2002) Thriller, starring Emma Samms. 5.00 Five News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 Zoo Days. (R) 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 Monkey Life; Five News Update. 8.00 Cowboy Builders; Five News at 8. 9.00 NCIS. Gibbs's mentor is linked to a double murder. 10.00 Law & Order: Criminal Intent. (R) 10.55 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (R) 11.55 Poker. 12.55 SuperCasino. 4.05 The FBI Files. (R) 4.55 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Thursday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Save My Holiday. 11.45 Cash in the Attic. (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Human Planet. 9.00 Outnumbered. (R) 9.30 Not Going Out. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Question Time. 11.35 This Week; Sitting; Weatherview. 12.25 Sign Zone: WikiLeaks: The Secret Story: Panorama. (R) 12.55 Countryfile. (R) 1.55 Antiques Roadshow. (R) 2.55 Rip Off Britain. (R) 3.25 Save My Holiday. (R) 4.20 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.45 Ready Steady Cook. 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Due South. (R) 1.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. 2.30 Climbing Great Buildings. (R) 3.00 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. (R) 3.45 Flog It! 4.30 Perfection. 5.15 Antiques Road Trip. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 One Man and His Campervan. 7.00 The Culture Show. 8.00 The Hairy Bikers: Mums Know Best. 9.00 George VI: The Reluctant King. Profile of George VI. (R) 10.00 Victorian Pharmacy. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Mad Men. (R) 12.10 The Culture Show. (R) 1.10 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 May the Best House Win. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Too Old for TV?: Tonight. 8.00 Emmerdale. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Marchlands. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Odd One In. (R) 11.20 The Late Debate. 11.50 Grimefighters. (R) 12.10 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.15 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 3.10 Too Old for TV?: Tonight. (R) 3.35 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.05 Sail Mail. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.25 According to Jim. (R) 8.55 The Secret Millionaire USA. 9.55 Desperate Housewives. (R) 10.55 Help! My House Is Falling Down. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 River Cottage Bites. (R) 12.20 Film: Broken Arrow. (1950) Western, starring James Stewart. 2.05 Cookery School. 3.10 Countdown. 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Jamie's 30 Minute Meals. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Relocation, Relocation. 9.00 Rome Wasn't Built in a Day. 10.00 10 O'Clock Live. 11.05 Big Fat Gypsy Weddings. (R) 12.10 Music on 4: CTRL.MX. 12.40 Music on 4: 4Play: Rumer. (R) 12.55 Music on 4: 4Play: Chapel Club. 1.10 Film: Dogville. (2003) Drama, with Nicole Kidman. 4.10 Hill Street Blues. (R) 5.00 Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) 5.25 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.00 The Vanessa Show. 11.45 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 12.40 Five News. 12.45 Build a New Life in the Country. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 Home and Away. 2.50 The Family Recipe. (R) 2.55 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 3.10 Film: Mystery Woman: Oh Baby. (2006) Detective drama, starring Kellie Martin. 5.00 Five News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 Zoo Days. (R) 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 Top Trumps: Earthmovers; (R) Five News Update. 8.00 Julius Caesar: Rome Unwrapped; Five News at 8. 9.00 Justin Lee Collins: Turning Japanese. 10.00 Film: Just Cause. (1995) 12.05 SuperCasino. 4.05 FBI Files. (R) 4.55 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R)

Friday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Save My Holiday. 11.45 Cash in the Attic. (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 A Question of Sport. (R) BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 QI. (R) 9.00 Hustle. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The Graham Norton Show. 11.20 The National Lottery Friday Night Draws. 11.30 Film: Right at Your Door. (2006); Weatherview. 1.05 Sign Zone: At Home with the Georgians. (R) 2.05 Horizon: What Is Reality? (R) 3.05 Climbing Great Buildings. (R) 3.35 Save My Holiday. (R) 4.20 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 Ready Steady Cook. 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Due South. (R) 1.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. 2.30 Real Rescues. (R) 3.00 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. (R) 3.45 Flog It! 4.30 Perfection. 5.15 Antiques Road Trip. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 One Man and His Campervan. 7.00 Julia Bradbury's German Wanderlust. (R) 7.30 An Island Parish. 8.00 Mastermind. 8.30 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. 9.00 Can't Take It with You. 10.00 Fast and Loose. 10.30 Newsnight. 11.00 The Review Show; Weather. 11.50 Film: A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints. (2006) Fact-based drama, with Robert Downey Jr. 1.25 Film: Alpha Male. (2005) 3.00 BBC News. 4.20 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 May the Best House Win. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Children's Hospital. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Comedy Rocks with Jason Manford. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 30 Years of An Audience With. (R) 11.35 Take Me Out. (R) 12.45 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.45 October Road. (R) 3.30 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.25 According to Jim. (R) 8.55 The Secret Millionaire USA. 9.55 Desperate Housewives. (R) 10.55 Gok's Clothes Roadshow. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Film: Prince Valiant. (1954) Adventure, with Robert Wagner. 2.05 Cookery School. 3.10 Countdown. 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Jamie's 30 Minute Meals. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.25 4thought.tv. 7.30 Father Ray Comes Out. 8.00 Relocation: Phil Down Under. 9.00 Embarrassing Bodies. 10.00 The Million Pound Drop Live. 11.20 10 O'Clock Live. (R) 12.25 Music on 4: Countdown to the NME Awards 2011. 12.45 Music on 4: CTRL.MX. (R) 1.10 Music on 4: The Album Chart Show Introduces Clare Maguire. 1.20 My Name Is Earl. (R) 2.05 Film: Lemming. (2005) 4.15 Hair: It's All Good. (R) 4.20 MBSH. (R) 4.30 Brothers & Sisters. (R) 5.15 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.00 The Vanessa Show. 11.45 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 12.40 Five News. 12.45 Build a New Life in the Country. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 Home and Away. 2.50 The Family Recipe. (R) 2.55 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 3.10 Film: Lying to be Perfect. (2010) 5.00 Five News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 Zoo Days. (R) 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 Vets in Action. (R) Five News Update. 8.00 Ice Road Truckers; Five News at 8. 9.00 The Mentalist. (R) 10.00 Law & Order. 10.55 NCIS. (R) 11.55 Cops in Crisis. (R) 12.15 SuperCasino. 3.55 Motorsport Mundial. 4.20 Royal Navy Caribbean Patrol. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

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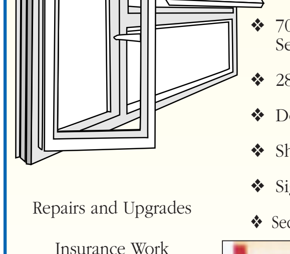
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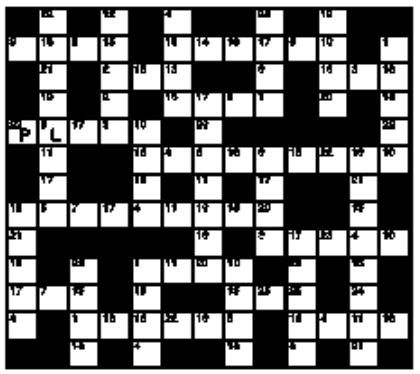
Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8 L	21
9	22 P
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

1 Q	2 R	3 V	4 X	5 Y	6 C	7 D	8 L	9 T	10 G	11 B	12 E	13 U
14 F	15 K	16 N	17 H	18 M	19 J	20 O	21 A	22 I	23 S	24 Z	25 W	26 P

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues – both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. As taken by a parachutist? (6,4)
7. Its failure will make one speechless (3)
8. Cheer the proceedings with a vile pun, perhaps? (5,2)
10. Re written rule said to be remaining (8)
11. Such a spot misled no doctor! (4)
13. Taking a sporting chance? (6)
15. Agnes: it's mixed lot (6)
17. Expel from a to move Trade Union (4)
18. Remove everything and leave (3, 3)
21. Runs lightly onto the scene and stumbles! (3,2)
22. Lawyer on article turned to shade of red (3)
23. Ready maxim for Boy Scouts (2, 8)

Down

1. Not a bad point for trade exhibitions (3)
2. Lie dying, perhaps, and surrendering (8)
3. Indian antelope thrills ailing, poor hope (6)
4. Exist to overthrow sin (4)
5. It will confuse men in a certain condition (7)
6. Come to a mean conclusion (7,3)
9. Up to date description of Christmas? (7 3)
12. Sneak a noise? (8)
14. A lump I have is substantial (7)
16. On swing in being lying up students (4,2)
19. Was a possessive type? (3)
20. Rules of star potential (4)

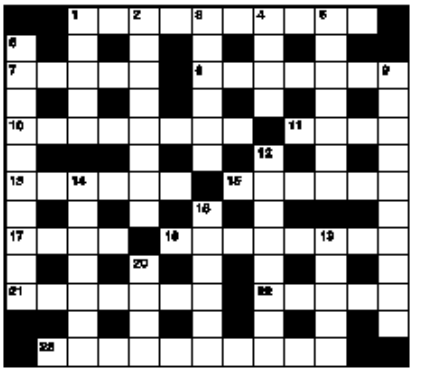
Quick Clues:

Across

1. Meeting place (10)
7. Unit of weight (3)
8. Curtail (7)
10. Replica (8)
11. Opinion (4)
13. Estimate (6)
15. Concealed (6)
17. Inactive (4)
18. Refutation (8)
21. Sincere (7)
22. Once more (3)
23. Colony (10)

Down

1. Renovate (5)
2. Unnecessary (8)
3. Simpler (6)
4. Old violin (4)
5. Incapacitated (7)
6. Patient (10)
9. U.S. State (3, 7)
12. Feign (8)
14. Stillness (7)
16. Tranquil (6)
19. Characteristic (3)
20. Catalogue (4)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS.
CRYPTIC – Across: 6 Tight lot, 7 Octet, 9 Alone, 10 Sacrament, 12 Small change, 15 Misgivings, 17 Constable, 19 Man, 21 Gone, 22 Sunshine. Down: 1 Green, 2 Aid, 3 Left, 4 Stalwarts, 5 Revenge, 8 Suicide, 11 Impossible, 13 Lunacy, 14 Forever, 16 Quite, 18 Lame, 20 All.
QUICK – Across: 6 Permanent, 7 Angle, 10 Cue, 11 Overbearing, 12 Trepidation, 15 Provocation, 17 Dandelions, 19 Odd, 21 Flip, 22 Clarify. Down: 1 Venue, 2 News, 3 Pure, 4 Infection, 5 Electric, 8 Sounds, 11 Financier, 13 Polite, 14 Orderly, 16 Silly, 18 Ugly, 20 Ant.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

		6				9		
4				3	9		7	
7		5	2					4
1	6			5		4		
	5		8		4		1	
				9			8	7
6		1			3			9
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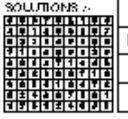
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS :-



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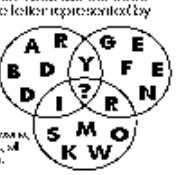
Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION
The letter represented by the question mark is S. Sunrise, Ghost, Sound, all fit from your hat.

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Funny Girl proved a sad final stage bow for Sheila

SHEILA Steafel, like most actresses of a certain age, has melted away from our TV screens, which is a shame because she was one of the most gifted comic character actresses of the 1960s and 70s.

Even in her autobiography When Harry Met Sheila (Apex, hardback, £12.99) she shares billing with her former husband of six years, the late Steptoe And Son actor Harry H Corbett. This is no great work of showiz history but Sheila is engagingly honest, both about her unhappy childhood in apartheid-era South Africa and her relationship with Harry H.

There are lots of anecdotes from the golden age of British TV in the 1960s when Sheila had roles in such pioneering shows as David Frost's Frost

Book

Over England in 1966 with John Cleese and Ronnies Barker and Corbett and in dramas ranging from Z Cars to The Prisoner. Those in their 40s may remember her as the White Lady in children's TV series The Ghosts of Motley Hall, though perhaps her finest TV moments were as Miss Popsy Wopsy, the aspiring music hall star of The Good Old Days.

She had character roles with the Royal Shakespeare Company and one-woman shows during the 1980s and 90s but seems to have blown her chances of returning to screens via the BBC with a few ill-timed diva strops.

Her last role on stage was as Mrs Brice in the 2008 Chichester Festival revival of the musical Funny Girl. She now regrets saying that if it was the last work she ever did it would have been worth it . . . she hasn't had a major acting job since. "I only wish that Whoever is Up There hadn't taken me quite so literally!"

The book features a warm-hearted introduction from Claire Rayner, written shortly before her death last year.

Leon Burakowski

It's a small venue return for Glasvegas

After a year of writing and recording Mercury-nominated Glasvegas are back with a new album and on tour and will be playing a gig at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms in March

Gig joy for Duranies

GLASVEGAS are back. The Glaswegian band set the rock scene alight with their self-titled debut album in 2008, yielding hit single Daddy's Gone. They were nominated for the Mercury Music Prize the following year, when they spent months touring America and supporting the likes of Oasis and U2.

They seemed to fade from the scene last year but were actually busy writing and recording in California and New York, and are now set to return with their second album Euphoric Heartbreak and gigs including a concert at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms in Broad Street on Wednesday, March 23, a rare chance to see a band that's played stadia in a small venue.

Tickets cost £12.50, available from Midland Box Office 0870 320 7000 or www.wolvescivic.co.uk.

IT'S the news all Duranies have been hoping for . . . the Birmingham 80s pop legends are going back on the road for their first tour in seven years – including a home city gig at the LG Arena on May 21.

The original line-up of Simon Le Bon, Nick Rhodes, John Taylor and Roger Taylor will perform to more than 150,000 fans in 11 arena concerts across the UK.

The shows will mark the band's first European performances in support of their critically acclaimed new album All You Need Is Now, produced by Mark Ronson, and the start of a world tour that will last well into 2012.

A nine track version of Duran Duran's latest studio record was released exclusively on iTunes in December and hit the top spot on download charts in 15 countries including the UK.

An expanded version of the new record will be released in late March, in both digital and physical formats.

Tickets for the LG Arena concert are priced from £30 to £55, available on 0844 338 8000.

Bryson's home visit full of facts

Audiobook

WRITER, broadcaster and historian Bill Bryson is good company, which makes his latest audiobook an experience like listening to an entertaining and informative friend.

The Anglophile American, who first moved to England in 1977, has written books on his travels and a hugely popular science book, A Short History of Nearly Everything.

But he turns his attention closer to home, indeed his own, in At Home: A Short History of Private Life (£14.99, Random House Audiobooks).

Moving from room to room and looking at everyday objects, he uncovers the extraordinary in the ordinary.

Each room or object is the starting point for an exploration of history and human ingenuity, the who-why-when-and-where of how the modern home came to be, which, naturally, also teaches us a lot about how people used to live in the past.

The surprises come thick and fast and will supply the listener with an endless store of did-you-know anecdotes.

The book, even in an abridged form, takes six hours for Bryson to read over five CDs. Thankfully, it remains consistently interesting and his warm midwestern tone is easy on the ear.

Less easy on the ear is the bogus Russian accent of Aleksandr Orlov, the 'author' who reads A Simples Life (£4.99, Random House Audiobooks), a spoof biography of the Muscovite Meerkats who feature in a popular series of television adverts. It's thin stuff even for an hour-long CD, a mildy amusing explanation of how the meerkats came from Africa to old Russia.

Leon Burakowski

Bill Bryson – endless stories

Reviews

Showstopper! The Improvised Musical
Arena Theatre

LIVING on their wits, the Showstopper ensemble never perform the same show twice. This fast-thinking, highly-talented group create a musical on the spot from suggestions shouted by the audience.

This makes for a unique and exciting experience with the audience an integral part of the process.

It's like a Whose Line Is It Anyway sketch but massively expanded and given a West End flavour.

Showstopper recently made the transition to BBC Radio 4's 6.30 comedy slot on Wednesdays, and the Wolverhampton audience came prepared with ideas at this one-nighter on Friday.

Six actor/singers were accompanied by a keyboardist and, with only a few props, had to create magic from the combination of title, location, era and musical theatre styles. These were chosen by narrator, Sean McCann, from audience suggestions. He certainly put the actors through their paces with increasingly bizarre stage directions.

So, largely due to audience member Geoff, we saw the 90-minute musical An Afternoon On A Ship about a cruise ship sailing from Dudley Port to Bermuda, where love blossoms between sailor Trey (Oliver Senton) and Black Country housewife Louise (brilliant Pippa Evans) despite the presence of her cross-dressing husband Peter (Andrew Pugsley), one half of cabaret cruise act Foxfire. Throw into the mix a singing waxwork Chinaman and a kung fu fighting dog, and you see just how surreal it got. But the song styles remained spot on, with the Phantom of the Opera and Les Miserables pastiches being real showstoppers.

Leon Burakowski

Milton Jones, Wolverhampton Civic Hall

SHARP, quick-witted, erudite, haphazard, surreal, endearing. All these are true of comics' comic Milton Jones, who gave his audience a night to remember with his off-beat, unorthodox humour.

In fact, this was two Miltons for the price of one, with the first support act being his 'granddad', a delightful 15-minute ditty covering an alternative view of important moments in history set the standard, detailing such events as the world's first weather report and how Mozart actually met a grisly and untimely death.

Don't be fooled by the silly shirts or ridiculous hair; Jones is as clever as they come and handles audience banter with aplomb, seemingly armed with killer lines for every eventuality throw at him.

The influences of Tommy Cooper and Ronnie Barker are evident but this is a comedian who puts his own indelible mark on the comedy circuit, dishing out fast-paced one-liners better than anyone, usually laced with charming word play.

No joke is more than a few lines long and the subjects covered during an exuberant 80-minute set are too many to list, but not once does he reduce himself to swearing or toilet humour. As every good comedian does, he leaves the audience wanting more; at this rate we'll all be seeing a lot more of him.

Tim Spiers

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Where the Welcombe is worthy of the Bard

WELCOMBE by name and welcoming by nature, the Menzies Welcombe Hotel, Spa and Golf Club on the outskirts of Stratford-upon-Avon is an ideal refuge in which to recover from the rigours of winter.

One of Warwickshire's premier hotels since the 1930s, the Menzies Welcombe has the traditional comforts of a country house hotel, including huge sofas in an oak panelled lounge warmed by a roaring log fire in a huge marble fireplace, fine food and drink and attentive service.

It combines this with a sparkling purpose-built spa and an 18-hole championship golf course within the surrounding 157 acres of parkland.

Not only is it a prime location in Shakespeare country, it actually was Shakespeare country as some of the land was once owned by the Bard himself.

The Jacobean style mansion was built in the Victorian era for Manchester industrialist and politician Mark Phillips, who is commemorated by a massive obelisk on a nearby hill, and it was later the home of brewer Sir Archibald Flower.

It was built as a 'Calendar House', a property with seven entrances (one for each day of the week), 52 chimneys (for each week of the year), 12 fireplaces (for each month) and 365 windows (for each day of the year). I must admit I was too busy relaxing to verify but I liked the idea that the magic numbers infuse luck and prosperity to all those who dwell within.

Beautiful grounds at the impressive Menzies Welcombe Hotel

Indoor pool and a range of 'thermal experience rooms' are on offer

Menzies Hotels bought the property in 2003, restoring the ornate Italian garden and building the impressive spa. The spa facilities, which are free to hotel residents, include an indoor swimming pool, open-air vitality pool, heated loungers, foot spas and a range of 'thermal experience' rooms including a Finnish sauna, steam and cool rooms, ice fountain and storm showers to invigorate.

Pamper

A selection of Clarins, Elemis and Gerard's treatment rooms offer a range of therapies and treatments, including massages and facials, available for an additional charge for those needing a little pamper time.

The more active can use the state-of-the-art gymnasium, aerobics studio and all-weather tennis courts, or head out on the 18-hole par 70 golf course which once hosted the European Seniors Tour.

If you want to get out and about, Stratford is only three minutes' drive away with its impressive new theatre complex for the Royal Shakespeare Company and historic houses with Shakespeare connections, plus probably the best array of shops in Warwickshire.

All this will develop an appetite. The hotel's Trevelyan restaurant (named after another previous owner, statesman Sir George Trevelyan) has two AA rosettes and head chef Robin Smith creates delicious dishes using traditional British ingredients. During my visit he created a twist on rice pudding involving apricots and caramel that was divine. There is an extensive wine list.

The hotel is a popular wedding venue and will be holding its annual Wedding Fayre on the afternoon of Sunday, February 27 (call 01789 413826).

The Menzies Welcombe is offering a winter chill-out deal until March on Friday and Sunday nights, with an overnight stay and a three course dinner, bed and breakfast for £60 per person. Book by calling 01789 295252.

Otherwise, prices start from £105 per night for a standard room or from £205 for a room with a four poster bed.

For more information visit www.welcombehotelstratford.co.uk or email welcombe.reservations@menzieshotels.co.uk

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7ft-6in	2286	312.00	318.00	333.00	340.00	404.00	411.00	427.00	428.00	478.00	498.00	502.00
8ft	2438	312.00	318.00	333.00	340.00	404.00	411.00	427.00	428.00	478.00	498.00	502.00
9ft	2744	322.00	334.00	341.00	348.00	408.00	415.00	430.00	444.00	480.00	502.00	507.00
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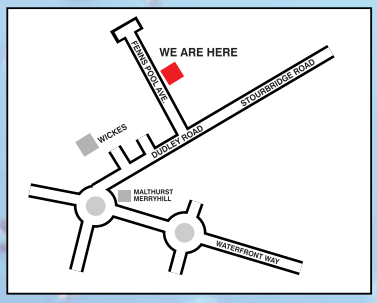

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TOWN & COUNTRY

PROPERTY SERVICES

HERONDALE ROAD WOLLASTON

A beautifully presented two bedroom detached bungalow situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of reception hall, fitted kitchen with dining area, sitting room, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and garage. The property also boasts a lovely rear garden and countryside view. Viewing highly recommended. Unfurnished DSS:NO CHILDREN:NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£650PCM

WHEELER STREET STOURBRIDGE

A refurbished Two Bedroom mid terrace property in the popular Old Quarter of Stourbridge. Accomodation comprises: Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room with gas fire,fitted 2.73 Kitchen with built in oven /hob and Utility with plumbing for washing machine. The landing leads to Two Bedrooms and Bathroom, being fully tiled and having a new white suite to include both Bath and seperate Shower Cubicle.
The Property further benefits from UVPC Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating.
The enclosed Rear Garden is laid to lawn, with a timber Shed. UNFURNISHED CHILDREN: Yes PETS: Yes SMOKERS: Yes DSS: May consider

£575PCM

SUFEIT HILL ROAD CRADLEY HEATH

A spacious improved two bedroom semi detached bungalow occupying a pleasant position with double glazing and requiring internal inspection. Comprising: Inner hall, delightful lounge with feature fireplace, farmhouse style kitchen, double glazed conservatory, two good sized bedrooms, attractive re-fitted bathroom, good sized detached garage and low maintenance rear garden extending to the side.
DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£550PCM

HENZEL CROFT OFF MOOR STREET BRIERLEY HILL

A Beautifully presented two bedroom 2nd floor apartment situated in a new development close to Brierley Hill and Merry Hill centres. The accommodation comprises: Communal entrance hall with entry phone system, private entrance hall, through lounge diner, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing, electric heating and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: No Children: Yes Pets: No Smokers: No

£525

CENTRAL DRIVE LOWER GORNAL

A Newly Built Two Bedroom Starter Home Town House, offering contemporary styled living. Accomodation comprises Lounge with stairs to the first floor accomodation, Kitchen having a range of wall and base units and french doors opening onto the garden and a Guest Cloakroom. On the first floor there are two bedrooms and bathroom with both bath and shower over. In addition to allocated parking space at the front of the property, there is a rear garden lawned with a decking area. Unfurnished. CHILDREN: Yes PETS: No. SMOKERS: No. DSS: No.

£525PCM

EVOLUTION AMBLECOTE

A well presented two bedroom first floor apartment in this popular new development with accommodation to comprise of: Community entrance hall with video entry phone system and stairs rising to the first floor, private entrance hall, open plan living area with lounge, dining area and fitted kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms master with en-suite and balcony. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking and communal gardens. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£525PCM

DEAN ROAD WOMBOURNE WOLVERHAMPTON

A Very Spacious Ground Floor Two Bedroom Apartment located in a delightful cul-de-sac close to Wombourne Village. Accomodation comprises: Entrance Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom and Separate WC. There are front lawns to the front of the property and Communal Gardens to the rear. Garaging may be available upon request. Unfurnished CHILDREN: No PETS: No SMOKERS: No DSS: No.

£525PCM

THE QUARTER CLARENCE STREET UPPER GORNAL

An extremely well presented two bedroom terrace property situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of Entrance hall, downstairs WC, Open plan lounge with kitchen area. Two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing and gas central heating. UNFURNISHED DSS:NO CHILDREN:YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£500

PERROTT GARDENS CLOCKFIELDS BRIERLEY HILL

An extremely well presented modern two bedroom property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of hall, sitting room, beech styled kitchen with integrated hob and oven, two first floor bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating and double glazing, enclosed rear garden and allocated parking space. Unfurnished DSS:NO CHILDREN:YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£495PCM

ATTWOOD STREET WOLLESCOTE

A well presented Two Bedroom mid-terraced property Accommodation to comprise:
Lounge, Fitted Kitchen including cooker, Two Bedrooms and House Bathroom. This property also benefits from double glazing and central heating. Street Parking.UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS:NO SMOKERS: NO

£475PCM

LIDDIARD COURT BELFRY DRIVE WOLLASTON

A modern Over 60's one bedroom third floor apartment with lift access and warden controlled, situated in a popular residential location and close to all amenities of Wollaston Village with accommodation to comprise of: Communal entrance with lift to all floors, Hall having built in storage cupboard and separate airing cupboard, Lounge/Diner having feature fireplace with electric fire, kitchen with built in oven and hob, Bedroom with built in wardrobe and bathroom having suite to comprise of WC, wash hand basin and shower cubicle. The property further benefits from having communal gardens and residents parking. Property also benefits from double glazing and storage heaters.
Unfurnished/Furnished DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£425pcm

THE BROADWAY NORTON

A very well presented two bedroom first floor apartment in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of Communal entrance hall, Private entrance hall, lounge with feature fireplace, kitchen with beech effect units and granite effect roll top, two bedrooms and bathroom with white suite. UNFURNISHED DSS:NO PETS:NO CHILDREN:MAY CONSIDER SMOKERS:NO

£400PCM

OLD MILL FARMHOUSE BROMSGROVE ROAD CLENT

An Impressive Five Bedroom Property covering Three Storeys, being set in a Highly Sought After Rural Location. Accomodation comprises: Situated on the Ground Floor - Three Sitting Rooms, Kitchen, Utility, Downstairs WC and Lobby. The First Floor has Bedrooms One and Two, both with En-Suites and Bedroom Three in addition to En-Suite has a large Lobby. On the Second Floor are Bedrooms Four and Five, together with the Family Bathroom. In addition to a large Cellar there is a Double Garage, Storage Buildings and outside WC. The Property is approached by a Private Drive, leading to a Court Yard. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: YES SMOKERS: NO

£2500.00PCM

IBIS GARDENS KINGSWINFORD

An extremely well presented four bedroom detached property in this much sought after residential location. The accommodation comprises of entrance hall, wc, lounge, dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen and play room. Master bedroom with en-suite, further 3 bedrooms and house bathroom.
UNFURNISHED DSS:NO CHILDREN:YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£795 PCM

LYNWOOD AVENUE WALLHEATH

A traditional semi detached bungalow which enjoys a highly sought afterposition within this prestigious address, offering an exeptionally spacious and very well
proportined layout of accommodation which is further enhanced by this delightful setting including a generous driveway to the fore together with a well maintained rear garden.
UNFURNISHED DSS: No Children: Yes Pets: No Smokers: No

£595PCM

HOLBOURNE HOUSE SEDGLEY

A very well presented two bedroom apartment in a newly developed block. Accomodation comprises lounge, kitchen, 2 bedrooms and bath/shower room. There is secure parking to the rear of the property.
Unfurnished. CHILDREN: No. PETS: No. DSS: No. SMOKERS: No.

£550pcm

THE EMBANKMENT MERRY HILL BRIERLEY HILL

An extremely well presented two bedroom apartment located closely to all ameneties of the Merry Hill Centre. Accomodation comprise of entrance hall, fully fitted kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. Part Furnished :1 Double bed / Wardrobe / Dining table and 4 chairs / Fridge and freezer. DSS: NO CHILDREN: MAY CONSIDER PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£525 PCM

THE QUARTER CLARENCE STREET UPPER GORNAL

An Extremely well presented two bedroom terrace property situated in a popular residential location. The accommodation comprises of lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating and double glazing. Unfurnished DSS:YES PETS:NO CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS:NO

£525PCM

WALTERS ROW

An extremely well presented two bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of Kitchen, lounge, Two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and off road parking. Unfurnished DSS:YES PETS:MAY CONSIDER CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS:YES

£500PCM

WALTERS ROW DUDLEY

An extremley well presented two bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of Kitchen, lounge, Two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and off road parking. UNFURNISHED DSS:YES PETS:MAY CONSIDER CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS:YES

£500PCM

ST GEORGES ROAD NORTON STOURBRIDGE

A well presented Semi-Detached Bungalow in this sought after residential location. Accomodation comprises Hall, Lounge with a double glazed bay window and a delightful Garden/Occasional Room with broad single viewing to the rear of the property.
The Kitchen has been refitted with a range of walnut styled cupboards to include electric hob and oven.The Double Bedroom includes double glazed sliding patio doors, opening onto the Garden/Occasional Room. The Bathroom has been re-appointed with bath and shower over.In addition to the pebbled/slabbed Driveway at the front of the property, there is an Enclosed Garden with patio and lawn area. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£495PCM

HIGHFIELD ROAD COLLEY GATE

A very well presented Two Bedroom End Terrace Property in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises: Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom and Two Double Bedrooms. The property further benefits from GCH, double glazing, rear garden and block paved fore garden. DSS No Children: Yes Pets: No Smokers: No

£495PCM

WYCHBURY ROAD WOLLESCOTE STOURBRIDGE

Pleasantly situated and a well arranged two bedroom semi-detached property in a popular residential location, The accommodation comprises of: Reception Hall, through Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms and house Bathroom. The property further benefits from GCH and Double Glazing.
UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS:: NO SMOKERS: NO

£495PCM

WORCESTER STREET STOURBRIDGE

An extremely well presented two bedroom mid terrace property situated in a popular residential location close to Stourbridge Town Centre. Accommodation comprises of kitchen, diner, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, partial double glazing. UNFURNISHED.
DSS:NO PETS:NO CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS:NO

£495pcm

ALBERT STREET LYE

A two bedroom period terrace property in popular residential location, to comprise, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, hallway, lobby and bathroom. The property also benefits from a rear garden. Currently being re-furbished. UNFURNISHED DSS NO CHILDREN YES PETS NO SMOKERS NO

£495PCM

REDHOLME COURT REDHILL

An Unfurnished two bedroom first floor apartment located within walking distance of Stourbridge Town Centre. Accommodation to comprise of: Entrance door with security code, private entrance hall, lounge with feature fireplace, fitted kitchen with cooker,bathroom, two bedrooms and ample storage cupboards. The property further benefits from night storage heating, communal gardens and single garage.
UNFURNISHED DSS:NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£475PCM

SCOTTS ROAD STOURBRIDGE

An extremely well presented two bedroom ground floor apartment situated close to Stourbridge Town Centre, with accommodation to comprise of fitted kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing, electric heating and allocated parking. VIEWING ESSENTIAL.
DSS:NO CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS:NO PETS:NO

£425 PCM

LOWER HIGH STREET STOURBRIDGE

An extremely well presented second floor purpose built apartment with accommodation to comprise : Entrance hall, open plan kitchen/lounge, double bedroom and en-suite shower room. The property further benefits from gas fire central heating and double glazing. UNFURNISHED
DSS: NO PETS:NO SMOKERS: NO CHILDREN:NO

£395 PCM

VICTORIA COURT VICTORIA STREET BRIERLEY HILL

An extremeley well presented one bedroom first floor apartment, situated close to Merry Hill and Brierley Hill town centre. The accommodation comprise of Lounge, fitted kitchen, one bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from off road parking and communal gardens. UNFURNISHED
DSS:NO CHILDREN:NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£385PCM

ST GEORGES ROAD NETHERTON

An extremely well presented one bedroom starter home with easy access to Dudley Town Centre. Accommodation comprises: Entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, double bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating and majority double glazing.
UNFURNISHED DSS:NO PETS:YES CHILDREN:NO SMOKERS:YES

£375PCM

FOXDALE DRIVE BRIERLEY HILL

A well presented two bedroom first floor apartment in a convenient residential location.
Accomodation comprises: Communal Entrance Hall with staircase to first floor landing, private Entrance Lobby, Hall, Lounge, Kitchen being fitted with a range of units and freestanding cooker, Two Bedrooms with Bedroom One having fitted wardrobes and Bathroom having suite with shower over bath. The property further benefits from Communal Gardens, Allocated Parking and shared bin store. Part Furnished
DSS:NO PETS:NO CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS:NO

£375PCM

BRIDGNORTH ROAD WOLLASTON

A one bedroom first floor apartment with accommodation to comprise of lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. The property benefits from double glazing and electric heating. UNFURNISHED DSS:NO CHILDREN:NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£375PCM

Call us for **FREE** valuation –

— on —

01384 444855

— or email: —

lettings@townandcountrypropertyservices.co.uk

DOVE DRIVE AMBLECOTE

An extremely well presented one bedroom first floor apartment sitiuated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of Lounge, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. The property further benefits from storage heating, double glazing and allocated parking and communal gardens.
Unfurnished DSS:NO CHILDREN:NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£370PCM

TEMPLE STREET LOWER GORNAL

A spacious one/two bedroom first floor flat situtated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of Communal Entrance, Lounge, bedroom dining room/bedroom, kitchen and bathroom. UNFURNISHED DSS:MAY CONSIDER CHILDREN: YES Pets:NO SMOKERS: No

£350

The home 45 Beech Road is on the market for offers in the region of £189,950 – call 01384 396066 to arrange a viewing

Cosy terrace lies in heart of suburb

A CHARMING home in the heart of Norton's well established and highly sought after road is now available.

Number 45 Beech Road Norton is on the market for offers in the region of £189,950 through Lee Shaw.

Having been extended, the accommodation briefly comprises two reception rooms, a breakfast kitchen, WC, two bedrooms and first floor shower room.

It also has majority double glazing, central heating and off-road parking. To the front of the house is the lounge measuring 12ft 1in x 11ft 4in and includes a mantle and tiled hearth, storage cupboards, coving and door to a dining room.

Integrated

Fitted with a range of wall and base cupboards is the kitchen which also includes a stainless steel inset sink, integrated oven, hob and cooker hood, fridge freezer and plumbing for a washing machine.

On the first floor landing there is access to the bedrooms and shower room which has been re-fitted with a white suite comprising a shower, WC and wash basin.

Outside, there's a patio and lawn with borders and a path leading to the rear with a shed and storage area.

For further details visit the website at www.leeshaw.com or call 01384 396066 to arrange a viewing.

The replica development of Canal Walk in Dudley would ideally suit a school

Scale development free and up for grabs

ONLY the final plots remain at a popular West Midlands' development on Halesowen Road in Dudley and to celebrate the completion of the successful project, the housebuilder is giving away the site model to a lucky winner.

Barratt West Midlands' Canal Walk model is a scaled down replica of the development and includes everything from the apartments, canal and cars to roads and even model people – ideally suiting a school or club looking for an innovative educational tool.

Graydon Worthing, sales director for Barratt West Midlands comments: "Replica models are provided on each of our sites and used by sales advisers and visitors to help demonstrate what developments look like when complete.

"The model might also appeal to railway enthusiasts, who could use it to create a unique landscape for trains."

The Canal Walk site model is being given away to the right home for free.

Anyone interested in giving this unique piece a brand new home should contact Tom or Hannah at Unsworth Sugden, explaining what they would like to do with it on 0116 247 1777 and the person with the best suggestion will be awarded the model.

Contact

Barratt West Midlands currently has just two, two-bedroom apartments remaining priced from £102,500 at its Canal Walk development.

For more information contact the sales office open daily from 10am to 5pm on 01384 561 329.

Alternatively log on to www.barratthomes.co.uk or call the sales hotline on 0844 811 9933, open seven days a week from 8am to 9pm.

House builder launches internet TV

A HOUSE builder with a development in Kidderminster is launching its own television channel.

Miller Homes' online service will feature video testimonials from buyers plus news on development launches and purchase incentives.

The firm, which is behind the Badgers Dene development at Franchise Street, hopes Millerhomes.TV will allow customers to learn more about the company and the process of buying a home.

Chair

Andrew Moorhead of Miller Homes said: "We thought that a TV channel would allow people to meet us and see what we are all about from the comfort of their computer chair.

"Our other social media channels have proved very popular with our customers."

More information at www.millerhomes.co.uk

RUSSELLS HALL
LANGSTONE ROAD
Semi-detached property. Lounge, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, double glazing, front and rear gardens, carpets and curtains. Unfurnished.
£510 pcm

BROCKMOOR
PHEASANT STREET
Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Rear Garden, Gas Central Heating, DSS Considered
£525 pcm

PENSNETT
TANSEY GREEN ROAD
End Terrace property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Garage at Rear, Front & Rear Gardens, Gas Central Heating
£510 pcm

KINGSWINF
LABURNUM
End terrace pr
Lounge, kitch
bedroom, bathr
road parking
garden.
£460 pc

KINGSWINFORD
COT LANE
Detached Bungalow, Large Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Carpets & Curtains, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking
£695 pcm

WALL HEATH
ALBION PARADE
Maisonette. Lounge, kitchen, bathroom with shower, three bedrooms, double glazing, parking, carpets and curtains. No pets.
£495 pcm

GORNAL
REDHALL ROAD
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished
£650 pcm

COSELE
ELIOT CR
Town house proper
kitchen/diner, bath
shower, two bedro
central heating, ca
curtains, double
Unfurnishe
DSS conside
£495 pc

COSELEY
SALCOMBE GROVE
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens
£545 pcm

WORDSLEY
BELLS LANE
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens
£560 pcm

PENSNETT
HIGH STREET
End Terrace Property, Three Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Cellar, Rear Garden, Off Road Parking, UNFURNISHED
£430 pcm

KINGSWINF
MANOR PA
Semi Detached F
Lounge, Kitchen/D
Three Bedrooms,
Gas Central Heatin
Glazing, Carpets &
Unfurnished, Fron
Gardens, Off Roa
£575 pc

NO LET NO FEE

Select Property Management Ltd.

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60a, Manor Park, Kingswinford, West Midlands. DY6 8AG
www.selectsalesandlettings.com
F: 01384 2

WORDSLEY
NEW STREET
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Carpets & Curtains, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking
£595 pcm

GREAT BRIDGE
EAGLE PLACE
Modern Apartment, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking
£370 pcm

WALL HEATH
ALBERT STREET
Mid terrace property. Lounge, kitchen/diner, two bedrooms, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, partial double glazing, front and rear gardens, off road parking, carpets and curtains. Unfurnished.
£575 pcm

WOMBOU
FORGE VALLE
Semi Detached F
Lounge, Dining Roo
Three Bedrooms, E
Electric Heating,
Glazing, Unfurnish
Side & Rear Garden
Parking
£650 pc

SEDGLEY
ROWAN ROAD
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Carpets & Curtains, UNFURNISHED, Front & Rear Gardens
£525 pcm

BRIERLEY HILL
BELL STREET
Ground Floor Flat. Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Conservatory, Large Cellar, Gas Central Heating, Carpets & Curtains
£425 pcm

KINGSWINFORD
QUEEN STREET
Large first floor flat. Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, one double bedroom, gas central heating, bathroom with walk in cupboard, double glazing. FULLY FURNISHED. Carpets & Curtains Maintained Gardens. No DSS.
£475 pcm

WORDSL
STREAM R
End terrace propert
kitchen/diner, out
bathroom with sh
double bedrooms,
heating, double
carpets & cur
Unfurnished, Rear
£525 pc

BRIERLEY HILL
TALBOTS LANE
Large showroom/workshop 850 sq ft, additional showroom/office on first floor 600 sq ft, with kitchen and toilet facilities and parking for six cars.
£1000 pcm

BRIERLEY HILL
DADFORD VIEW
Cluster Home. Lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, unfurnished, off road parking, double glazing. DSS considered.
£460 pcm

GORNAL
WOOD ROAD
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking
£560 pcm

STOURBRI
PENFIELDS
Terrace Property,
Kitchen, Three Be
Bathroom with
Gas Central Heatin
& Curtains, Fron
Gardens, Furn
Off Road Par
£625 pc

Advertisement Feature

Motor Market Celebrates 1000th Sale

Cradley Heath based car dealership Motor Market Limited reached the milestone of selling its 1000th car this month since moving to its Newtown Lane site 3 years ago.

The landmark sale was a 55 Reg Peugeot 307 1.4S to Miss Margaret Cooper of Brierley Hill and was celebrated by the Motor Market team presenting the proud new owner with flowers, champagne and a meal for 2 at a local restaurant.

Steve Hampton, Motor Market Sales Executive
Margaret Cooper, 1000th Customer
Debbie Parsons, Close Motor Finance

Miss Cooper said 'It doesn't surprise me the success the business is having. I originally purchased a Peugeot 206 from them 3 years ago; it's been great and never let me down. I was really pleased with the value for money and customer service I received. I had exactly the same experience this time and the extra items for being their 1000th sale were a nice added bonus.'

Motor Market specialises in providing quality used vehicles between the £2995 and £6995 price ranges. Partnerships with major finance companies such as Close Motor Finance, Santander and Barclays also ensure they can provide competitive finance wherever it's required. All vehicles are provided with a 72 point pre delivery inspection, 12 months MOT and RAC mechanical warranties.

Owned by local brothers Dean and Adam Bridge, Motor Market is rapidly developing a reputation for first class customer care and after sales support. Adam commented, `From the outset we have always believed it vital we provide exceptional customer service, we see it as the key factor to help distinguish us from our competition. We are really pleased to now see that more than 70% of our business comes from recommendation, referrals or repeat customers, which is hopefully evidence the approach is working.'

Adam went on to say, `Don't get me wrong despite the most thorough pre delivery inspections, we sometimes still have problems, just like everyone else, its inevitable and unfortunately a fact of life with used vehicles, but what I can say with absolute confidence is, we never walk away from a problem and we will always put it right.'

Motor Market has qualified in house mechanics and its own workshops equipped with the latest diagnostic equipment for repairs, service and MOT work; along with branded courtesy cars to keep customers on the road should they be required.

Alongside their commitment to customer service the other key policy that Motor Market always aims to deliver is `value for money'. The business works hard to keep its prices very competitive and provide the keenest deals available.

Adam & Dean Bridge, Motor Market Directors

Dean commented, `We were born and bred here in the Black Country, so we understand how people quite rightly demand and deserve value for their money. You will never see sharp suited salesmen, fancy showrooms, leather suites or plasma TV's within our dealership as we recognise these things aren't important to customers when compared to permanently low prices and receiving the best value possible.'

With such a very clear focus on delivering customer satisfaction it's easy to see how Motor Market is developing such an enviable reputation within the Black Country area. Its success has led to the recent acquisition of the ex Crown Works site adjacent to its existing premises, where the additional space will see its stock holding capacity increase to 120+ cars during the early part of 2011.

So with the powerful combination of increased choice, great value and excellent customer service Motor Market looks very well positioned to serve the local used car market for many years to come.

Motor Market

Lowest prices, great deals, best value...

53-07 Reg RENAULT MEGANES £3995 - £5495

03-07 Reg RENAULT SCENICS £2995 - £5495

54-07 Reg FORD MONDEOS £2995 - £5495

53-06 Reg FORD FOCUSES £2995 - £5795

54-07 Reg VAUXHALL VECTRAS £2995 - £5495

54-07 Reg CORSAS £2995 - £4995

		Sale Price	Wkly Equiv
53 Reg	**ALFA ROMEO 147 TS LUSSO**. Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, Full Leather Sport Seats	£3495	£21
53 Reg	**AUDI TT 1.8 T QUATRO** Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, full leather sports seats	£6995	£42
05 Reg	**BMW 116i SE** Gold, Climate Control, Alloys, CD, Park Sensors, FSH	£6995	£42
02 Reg	**BMW 316Ti SE COMPACT** Silver, Climate Control, Alloys, CD, FSH	£3995	£24
56 Reg	**CHEVROLET KALOS 1.2 S**. Blue, CD, Low Insurance, FSH	£2995	£17
06 Reg	**FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.2 DYNAMIQUE** Red, A/C, CD, 5-door, FSH, 28k	£4495	£28
02 Reg	**FIAT PUNTO 1.2 SPORTING** Black, Alloys, CD, stainless exhaust, PX to clear	£1995	N/A
58 Reg	**FORD KA 1.3 STYLE** Silver, CD, FSH	£4295	£26
06 Reg	**FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCi LX** Bronze, Diesel, A/C, CD, FSH	£4495	£28
08 Reg	**FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCi ZETEC** Mauve, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, 5 door, £30 Road Tax, FSH	£5995	£36
54 Reg	**FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC** Blue, A/C, Alloys, CD	£3995	£24
06 Reg	**FORD FOCUS 1.6 LX TDCi 90** Blue, Diesel, A/C, CD, FSH	£4495	£28
57 Reg	**FORD FOCUS 1.6 STYLE** 2008, Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD	£5995	£36
56 Reg	**FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCi ESTATE** Blue, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£4995	£30
56 Reg	**FORD FOCUS C-MAX 2.0 TDCi** Blue, A/C, Alloys, CD, 51k	£5995	£36
51 Reg	**FORD FOCUS 1.8 GHIA 2002**, Green, alloys, 5-door, 30k	£2995	£17
04 Reg	**MINI COOPER 1.6 CHILLI PACK** Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, Half leather sport seats, glass roof, FSH	£5995	£36
02 Reg	**MG ZR 1.4 105** Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, Spoiler	£1995	N/A
02 Reg	**PEUGEOT 206 2.0 SE CABRIOLET** Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, 42k	£3495	£21
03 Reg	**PEUGEOT 206 1.1 LOOK** Silver, A/C, CD, low insurance, px to clear	£1995	N/A
57 Reg	**PEUGEOT 207 1.4 HDi** Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, 5 door, £30 Year Road Tax	£5995	£36
07 Reg	**PEUGEOT 207 1.4 URBAN** Black, A/C, CD, 5-door	£5495	£33
54 Reg	**PEUGEOT 307 2.0S HDi** Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD	£3495	£21
06 Reg	**PEUGEOT 307 1.6 90 S HDi STYLE** Red, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD	£4495	£28
53 Reg	**PEUGEOT 307 2.0 HDi ESTATE**. Blue, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£3495	£21
05 Reg	**PEUGEOT 307 1.4 X-LINE** Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD	£3995	£24
57 Reg	**PEUGEOT 308 1.6 HDi S** Black, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD	£5995	£36
56 Reg	**PEUGEOT 407 2.0 HDi SE** Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD	£4995	£30
56 Reg	**RENAULT CLIO 1.2 16V EXTREME** Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£4495	£28
05 Reg	**RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCi DYNAMIQUE** Blue, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, £30 year road tax	£4495	£28

		Sale Price	Wkly Equiv
55 Reg	**RENAULT MEGANE 1.9 DCi DYNAMIQUE** Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD	£4295	£26
55 Reg	**RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE** Beige, 2006, A/C, Alloys, CD	£3495	£21
54 Reg	**RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE** Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, 3-dr. FSH	£3495	£21
05 Reg	**RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE AUTOMATIC** Silver, Auto, A/C, Alloys, CD, 49k	£3995	£24
56 Reg	**RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE CABRIOLET** Blue, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£5995	£36
56 Reg	**RENAULT GRAND SCENIC 1.6 DYNAMIQUE MPV** Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£4995	£30
05 Reg	**RENAULT GRAND SCENIC 1.6 DYNAMIQUE MPV** Black, A/C, Alloys, CD, 7 Seater, FSH, 33k	£4795	£29
04 Reg	**RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 DYNAMIQUE MPV** Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD	£3495	£21
53 Reg	**RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 EXPRESSION MPV, 2004,** Gold, A/C, CD, 39k	£3495	£21
54 Reg	**RENAULT SCENIC 1.5 DCi DYNAMIQUE MPV** Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, 54k	£3995	£24
05 Reg	**SKODA SUPERB 1.9 TDi ELEGANCE** Gold, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, leather sport seats, FSH	£5995	£36
03 Reg	**TOYOTA CELICA 1.8 VVTi** Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, leather sport seats	£4495	£28
53 Reg	**TOYOTA RAV4 2.0 GX** Gold, A/C, Alloys, CD, 5-door, FSH	£5495	£33
57 Reg	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 CLUB** Blue, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 39k	£5295	£32
05 Reg	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 DESIGN** Red, Low Insurance, FSH	£3495	£21
57 Reg	**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.3 CDTi LIFE** Beige, Diesel, A/C, CD, Low Insurance	£5795	£35
55 Reg	**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6i CLUB** Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£4695	£29
07 Reg	**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 LIFE AUTOMATIC** Gold, A/C, CD, FSH, 27k	£5495	£33
56 Reg	**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTi CLUB** Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£4995	£30
55 Reg	**VAUXHALL TIGRA 1.4i COUPE** Blue, A/C, Alloys, CD	£5995	£36
07 Reg	**VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 CDTi EXCLUSIVE** Silver. Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£5495	£33
06 Reg	**VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 VVT LIFE** Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 20k	£5495	£33
53 Reg	**VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8i LS** Gold. A/C, CD, Stainless exhaust, FSH	£2495	N/A
53 Reg	**VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.8 ENJOY EASYTRONIC** Gold. A/C, CD, FSH, 46k	£3495	£21
55 Reg	**VAUXHALL ZAFIRIA 1.6i LIFE** Silver. A/C, CD, 7 Seater, FSH, 27k	£5495	£33
55 Reg	**VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6i LIFE** Black, A/C, CD, 7 Seater	£4995	£30
06 Reg	**VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9 CDTi DESIGN** Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, Leather seats, FSH	£6995	£42
55 Reg	**VOLKSWAGEN GOLF PLUS 1.9 S TDi** Blue. Diesel, A/C, CD, FSH	£5995	£36
55 Reg	**VOLKSWAGON PASSAT 1.9 SE TDi** Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD	£6495	£38
53 Reg	**VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE 2.0 S** Silver. A/C, Alloys, CD, Winter Pack, FSH	£4995	£30

Finance Example - Cash Price £3995. Less Cash or Part Exchange Deposit £500
Amount Of Credit £3495. Total Amount Payable £5453.60
48 Monthly Payments of £103.20 or 208 weekly payments of £23.82

TYPICAL 19.9% APR

54-07 Reg ASTRAS £3995 - £5995

53-07 Reg CLIOS £2995 - £4995

05-07 Reg GRAND SCENICS £4495 - £5995

04-56 Reg PEUGEOT 307s £3495 - £5495

54-07 Reg FIESTAS £3495 - £5495

54-07 Reg ZAFIRAS £3995 - £5995

27 Newtown Lane Cradley Heath B64 5EB

www.motor-market.net **01384 411119**

OPEN MON-FRI 9 am-6 pm SAT-SUN 10 am-4 pm

German company is set to make 1,911 special editions of its celebrated 911 sports car

Iconic Porsche is back in black

Distinctive black paintwork and 19-inch forged alloy wheels emphasise the timeless exterior design of the Porsche 911 Carrera

The Cabrio has an electric folding roof

The black colour theme continues inside

IT'S BACK in black: The iconic Porsche 911 is to be available in just 1,911 examples worldwide. It is painted in plain black as standard, with Basalt Black metallic available as an option.

The electric-folding hood of the Cabriolet model is trimmed in black cloth. Exterior highlights are provided by the 19-inch 911 Turbo II forged alloy wheels, the glossy metallic appearance of which perfectly complements the discreet elegance of these 911 models.

In addition, the wheel rims provide an unobstructed view of the brake discs which are naturally paired with black-finished, four-piston aluminium monobloc fixed callipers.

Chrome and silver offset the black cabin

Black lettering on the stainless steel door entry guards identifies each 'Black Edition', and provides a first hint of the high-quality interior design with its focus on pure sports car values.

Inside, the colour theme of the exterior continues with a black leather interior, and facing the driver is a thick-rimmed Sport-Design steering wheel.

The instrument cluster naturally remains in black. On the glove compartment lid, a badge testifies to the limited production run of the 911 Black Edition.

Together with the characteristic exhaust note of the flat-six 3.6-litre engine, a further acoustic highlight of the 911 Black Edition is the BOSE Surround Sound-System that is fitted as standard.

This was specially co-ordinated with the interior of the 911 Carrera and comprises 13 loudspeakers (12 in the Cabriolet) including an active subwoofer and central speaker as well as a seven channel digital amplifier.

Also standard on the Black Edition models is satellite navigation, and a universal audio interface in the central console storage compartment that enables an MP3 player to be connected to the audio.

Every 911 Black Edition also features rear ParkAssist, cruise control, automatic dimming anti-dazzle interior and exterior mirrors, and rain-sensing windscreen wipers.

Typical

The technology of the 911 Black Edition conforms to the Carrera standard. Under the rear lid is to be found the typical Carrera flat-six cylinder engine, producing 345hp at 6,500 rpm from 3,614cc.

Coupled with the six-speed gearbox, this output delivers a top speed of 180 mph in both body versions. At its maximum acceleration, the Coupé reaches 62 mph in 4.9 seconds, the Cabriolet in 5.1 seconds. Combined with such impressive performance figures are remarkably moderate running costs; the 911 Black Series Coupé, for example, returns 27.4mpg on the combined cycle.

The 911 Black Edition enjoys the same technical special equipment options that are offered for all Carrera models.

First and foremost is the Porsche-Doppelkupplungsgetriebe (PDK) double-clutch gearbox. A 911 Carrera with PDK turns in record performances thanks to the seven ratios and quick gear changes achieved with no interruption to the power flow. Fuel consumption is 29.4 mpg and 28.5 mpg for the closed and open-top 911 respectively.

With PDK, the Coupé accomplishes the sprint in only 4.7 seconds, the Cabrio in 4.9 seconds.

The sportiness and comfort of the 911 Black Edition can be enhanced further if so desired.

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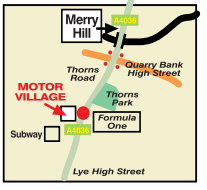

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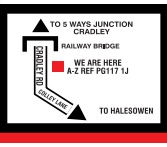

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Mini means business for ninth straight year

Performance, low running costs and high residual values made the car Supermini of the Year

FOR AN IMPRESSIVE ninth year in a row, Mini's commitment to manufacturing frugal and fast premium small cars has been recognised as the Mini Hatch was named Supermini of the Year by BusinessCar Magazine.

Mini's unbeatable mix of performance, low running costs and CO2 emissions, coupled with high residual values are just some of the reasons why it has proven to be so successful with business car users.

Jochen Goller, director Mini UK, said "We are delighted to receive this prestigious recognition from BusinessCar.

"The corporate sales channel has increased in importance for Mini since the recent launch of the fourth member of the Mini family.

"The new four-door Mini Countryman has already generated huge interest in the fleet market amongst buyers seeking the unique Mini driving experience combined with increased space and practicality."

BusinessCar editor Paul Barker said: "Normally it would be incredible to see a car hold onto its title for nine years, but with the Mini's unbeatable running costs and driver appeal, it's no surprise to see it take the Supermini of the Year Award for a ninth straight year.

Incredible

"The excellent residual values and economy mean it's a small car that makes big sense for business."

As with all Mini models, both the Mini One D and Mini Cooper D comply with the EU5 emission standard and they achieve the same low fuel consumption of 74.3 mpg and CO2 emissions of 99 g/km.

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www.forestdogrescue.org.uk

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£5,500. ono.
07707 276545. 07729 778579.

AUDI AVANTE A6 53 reg, Diesel Estate, 1.9TDi, 130PS, met steel grey, SE, long tax/MoT, £3,250 ono. 07989 467185.

BMW 120D M SPORT
2007, 51K, BMW fsh, 1 lady owner, MoT April, excellent condition throughout, heated leather seats, climate, bi-xennons, new tyres, HPI clear.
£12,000 ono.
07900 974706.

BMW 318I SE, 2002, 80,000 miles, silver, c/c, a/c, alarm, cruise control, all electric, alloys, CD, 11 months MoT, 6 months tax, £3,200 ono. 07971 122449.

BMW 330CI coupe 2001 (51), average miles, Blue, leather interior, petrol, 12 months mot, £3,900 ono 07854 319801

CHRYSLER GRANDE Voyager, W reg, 7 seater in leather, 170k miles, 6 months MoT / tax, DVD player, £2,000. ono. 07590 013547.

★ **CITROEN C2 SX**, Nov 2006, 29,500 miles, blue, fsh, 1 lady owner, MoT, tax, excellent, £3,500. 01952 460588.

CITROEN C3 Cool, 1.4, 5dr, 08 reg, AC, PAS, Front EW, Taxed, very good condition. £5,000 ono. Contact 01384 573940.

CITROEN LOEB C4 1.6HDI
2008, 20k miles, a/c, fsh, c/l, one owner, c/c, white alloys, CD, Sport Int, showroom condition, valeted from new, limited edition. Must be seen!
£7,700 ono.
07752 012033.

DAIHATSU CUORE EL, 989cc, 02 reg, 7,135 miles, one owner, OAP, Mot Oct, £1,800 ono. 0121 520 5976.

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FIAT PUNTO Active 1.2L, 53 reg, 41,000 miles, black, 5 door, petrol, MoT Nov, tax July. Located Perton WV6. £2,100. 07920 057379.

FORD FIESTA BLACK SPECIAL EDITION 1.25
51 reg., 10 months MoT, 5 months tax, 67,000 miles, good condition.
£1,750 ono.
01384 273791 / 07527 829090.

FORD FIESTA P reg, long MoT/Tax, £275. Citroen Xantia, P reg, diesel, long MoT/Tax. £350 ono. Bargain. 07545 017336.

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FORD FOCUS ESTATE 1.6
Petrol, 51 reg, 56K, towbar, roof bars, 12 months MoT, 5 months tax, good condition.
£1,850 ono
07816 602145.

FORD FUSION 2003, 54,000 miles, metallic grey, EW, EM, CD player. £2,450 ono. 07800 821252.

FORD MONDEO Zetec diesel, 2006, full MoT, very good condition, 112,000 miles, £2,800 ovno. 07575 362500.

HONDA CIVIC 1.6SE, 2000(Y), silver, 1 owner, full Honda SH, tax, MoT, 60,000 miles. £2,300 ono. 01384 259588 / 07521 594750.

LANDROVER DISCOVERY 2.5TDi, 12 months MoT, 6 months tax, V reg, excellent condition, extras, £4,850 ono. 01746 862209.

MAZDA RX-8, 2004, 14,000k only, velocity red, traction, red/black heated leather, fsh, immaculate, genuine reluctant sale. £5,450. 07890 305907.

MERCEDES 200 CLK Coupe, 2000, white, manual, 89K, tax and MoT, private reg worth £400. £1,995. 07771 231917.

MINI COOPER
2006, abs, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, cruise control, low mileage.
£7,800.
07921 543550.

NISSAN MICRA 1.2 SE, 53 reg, 5dr, good condition, 46,000 miles, £2,400 ono. 07969 023990.

NISSAN MICRA Spirita,1.2, petrol, 07, black, 4dr, fsh, MoT, tax, excellent condition, £3,850. 01902 651292 or 07803 604469

NISSAN TINO S 1.8 MPV
petrol, 04 Aug, only 15,750 genuine miles. Mot Jan 2012, Tax Aug 2011, blue, Nissan FSH, EFW, CD, AC, immaculate condition. Genuine reason for reluctant sale.
£3,250. ono. 01922 493151

PEUGEOT 307S 1.6
2005, 37,000 miles, black, 5 door, 5 months MoT, a/c, abs, airbags, alloy wheels, remote c/l, lovely car, Group 6 insurance.
Reduced to sell £3,000.
Telephone 01584 823262 or 07973 937727.

PEUGEOT 407 SE HDi
new shape, 55 reg, MoT and tax, good condition, high mileage, drives excellent, part ex considered.
£3,200. ono.
07769 158946. 01902 703603.

PEUGEOT PARTNER, light goods van. 56 reg, tax Feb 2011, MoT March 2011, A1 condition. £2,900 ono. 07891 180829.

RANGE ROVER, 1998, 4.6 auto, top of the range, silver, in original condition, MoT Nov, tax May, bargain £2,500. 01543 491579.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2 Dynamique, 2002, tax, MoT, PAS, Alloys, CL, £1,695. 07504 305018.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2 EXPRESSION
53 reg, 76,000 miles, excellent condition, owned from new. FSH, ABS, CL, EW, blue metallic, 5dr, immobiliser, electric sunroof, alloys, PAS, rear wiper, 8 months Tax and MoT.
£2,950 ono.
Telephone 01902 750592.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2 Ripcurl, 08 reg, silver, 1 owner, 9k miles, excellent condition. Still under warranty. £4,995. 07901 762131.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2 Ripcurl, 5-dr, silver, lady owner, 18,000, very good condition alloys, AC, CD MP3, £5,500 ono. 07854 494091.

RENAULT Megane Extreme, (53), 1.5DCi, silver, 3dr, 72k, long MoT, 5 months tax, SH, economical, £35rfl. £3,195ono. 07970 721904.

RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 EXPRESSION
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£3,200ono.
0121 422 5503 / 07846 498946.

RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE
2007, flame red, 6 months Tax, 12 months MoT, PAS, all electric, A/C, sunroof, FSH, excellent condition.
£4,950 ono.
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SUZUKI WAGON R 1.3, 2004, MoT Jan 2012, tax March, 71,000 miles, green, pas, abs, CL, good runner. £1,750. 07939 605104.

TOYOTA AVENSIS
1.8, VVTi, T3S, 5dr petrol, 60,000 miles, 2005, metallic olive green, clean and tidy, good runner.
£5,750.
01902 897734 or 07810183369.

TOYOTA YARIS 1300 5dr auto, 2007, 27,000 miles, disability warranty till Aug, good, clean car. £5,500. 0121 422 1345.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 Club, 06 reg, blue metallic, EW, CL, alloys, CD, MoT. Very good condition. £4,295. 01384 860219.

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Hatch, 56 reg, 31k, excellent condition, 1 previous owner, silver lightning, e/w, a/c, fsh, alarm, long MoT, tax, alloys, CD, petrol. **£5,450 ono.**
07791 360774.

VAUXHALL ASTRA LS CDTi
5 door, hatchback, diesel, black, 1686cc, 03 plate, tax, MoT, excellent condition, lady owner.
£1,900 ono.
01902 828902.

VAUXHALL ASTRA SRi TURBO 2002, black, FSH, T/T, tastefully modified, excellent condition. £2,850 ono. Kiddi 07511 401089.

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The Staffordshire County Council (South Staffordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) Order No 1 (Amendment) No. 4/2011

1. [illegible]

2. [illegible]

3. [illegible]

4. [illegible]

5. [illegible]

6. [illegible]

7. [illegible]

8. The Order will come into operation on 11th February 2011.

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1. [illegible]

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3. [illegible]

4. [illegible]

5. [illegible]

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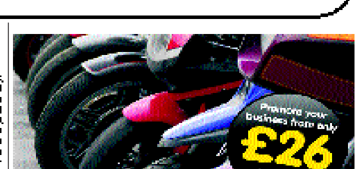

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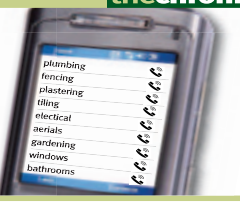

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sport

Heathens preparing for a tilt at the Shield

DUDLEY Heathens will be looking for early silverware when the 2011 speedway season gets under way.

The National League Shield has been introduced to the sport's third tier – and Dudley, last season's table-toppers, will do battle with champions Buxton for the trophy.

The Heathens are one of nine teams in this year's National League, joining existing sides Buxton, the Isle of Wight, King's Lynn, Newport and Scunthorpe.

Stoke are also in, having dropped down from the Premier. Their clashes with the Heathens will have a particularly nostalgic tinge for followers of the red, green and white. Stoke's Loomer Road played host to the old Cradley side in 1996, its season of exile when the Dudley Wood stadium was shut.

Also in are new entrants Belle Vue, who will be running a Colts side in the NL alongside their Elite League septet.

Another old name from the sport's glory days, Hackney, is revived with the Hawks sharing their fixtures between Lakeside and Rye House.

A potential promotion at Mildenhall applied to run but was refused permission.

The National League pairs will run at Newport, the Fours at Stoke and the individual riders' championship returns to Rye House where Dudley's Lee Smart won a famous victory last season. Team building has been set at a 40-point limit.

Golden girls in medals triumph

JUDO STARS Sarah Biles and Charis Hancocks proved unstoppable at the Midlands Open Championships, both taking gold medals.

Three more Samurai players added bronzes to give the club a good haul at the tough two-day British selection event at Walsall.

Biles was up against most of the same players from the British Junior Trials the previous weekend, where she had taken bronze. Here she was on better form, producing a superb throw for maximum points in her first bout and then dominating the opponent who had finished fifth in the trials in her second.

Although she conceded an early penalty in the semi-final, a neat throw put her in front and she saw the contest out comfortably.

Tentative

In the final she came up with a maximum point throw against the other Trials bronze medalist to take the gold.

Hancocks, a touch tentative at the Trials, was anything but at Walsall and won each of her three bouts by maximum points in short order. She attacked well to both sides, moved fluidly and showed improved transition into groundwork. She also picked up points towards a black belt.

Hamish Beaumont started well in the boys lightweights, spectacular throws taking him to the semi-finals despite moving up a weight category. A foot sweep downed him for maximum points but he came back to win the bronze.

Twins Sally and Rachel Moon also reached the semis where both lost but took the two bronzes in their category.

Bryony Griffiths finished fifth as did Frankie Marston while Brendan Crummy pulled a back muscle and had to withdraw.

GLASSBOYS BOW OUT OF THE CUP

THE GLASSBOYS bowed out of the Birmingham Senior Cup following a limp display at holders Nuneaton Town.

Both sides rang the changes in the quarter-final to hand opportunities to current fringe players, but the visitors never really got going as they were overpowered in a generally dull contest.

The Blue Square Bet North hosts made most of the early running on Tuesday night and they almost forged ahead on 17 minutes when Chris Dillon sent a volley narrowly wide from James Armson's left-wing cross.

Nuneaton Town 3 Stourbridge 0

Stourbridge responded six minutes later as Drew Canavan flashed a 25-yard effort wide.

But the home side took a deserved lead in the 29th minute.

A strong run from Eddie Nisevic took him past two Stourbridge players into the left-hand side of the box and as he looked to turn the ball goalwards, a deflection off a Stourbridge player enabled the ball to squirm past Lewis Solly's near post and into the net.

A minute later Nuneaton might have doubled their lead as Justin Marsden was played in. But Jamie Oliver got across to produce a good block.

Moments later the visitors produced their best move of the night and could have drawn level with Linden Dovey spreading the ball to Canavan whose early lay-off into the run of Aaron Drake put the midfielder in on goal only for his shot to be blocked by Nuneaton keeper Michael Quirke.

James Dyson then struck another long-range effort wide, but Nuneaton grabbed a second goal on 37 minutes with Gareth Dean rising unmarked at the far post to head home from a left-wing corner.

The tie was more or less settled a minute after the re-start as Marsden cut in from the right before beating Solly with a crisp low drive from the edge of the box into the far corner of the net.

Opportunities were scarce at either end after that although Dovey headed over from a Broadhurst cross in the 62nd minute as the visitors tried to rally.

Stourbridge 0 Salisbury City 0

The Glassboys had to settle for a share of the spoils with title-chasing Salisbury City on Saturday.

The visitors from Wiltshire enjoyed more possession but the home side had the better chances in an absorbing clash.

Nathan Bennett hooked a shot narrowly wide, Sam Rock was off-target and Lindon Dovey forced a good save.

First Slam and Whiley now wants more

WHEELCHAIR tennis ace Jordanne Whiley is thirsting for more Grand Slam action after her debut in Australia.

The 18-year-old is in Sydney this week for the second of back-to-back tournaments after making her Grand Slam bow at Melbourne Park.

Wheelchair tennis

Whiley, from Halesowen, put up two fine efforts in her singles and doubles matches after receiving a late wild card entry into the elite field of eight.

The world No 10 had game points for a 5-2 lead in her singles match against Dutch world No four Jiske Griffioen, but the Dutchwoman's experience finally told as she recorded a 6-4 6-1 victory.

"I was so nervous in my first match," said Whiley, who got her spot after British number one Lucy Shuker pulled out through injury.

"It was such a big experience and my hands were visibly shaking at times.

"I didn't control some of my shots as well as I would have liked, especially on the big points, but I can take a lot of positives away from my first Grand Slam and it won't be a completely new experience for me next time."

The doubles saw Whiley and her Australian partner Daniela di Toro of Australia have set points before their top seeded Dutch opponents Esther Vergeer and Sharon Walraven pulled clear, 6-3 7-6 (7-2).

James Rodley scores the opening try for Stourbridge with Ben Hughes on hand to assist

Saxons claim the spoils with a late rush of tries

Stourbridge Saxons 36 Blackheath 16

THREE TRIES in the final quarter of this enthralling Stourton Park clash saw the Saxons secure their first win of 2011, wrapping up a bonus point in the process.

Neil Mitchell's side could not have wished for a better start, scoring after just four minutes when James Rodley dived on the ball after a catch and drive move from the pack.

But it galvanised the visitors who controlled the next 30 minutes, ***writes David Lawrence.*** They edged ahead thanks to penalties from Paul Humphries and Sam Windsor.

Stourbridge had struggled to get their hands on the ball but, as the half drew to a close, Ali Bressington slotted over a hat-trick of penalties to put them back in the driving seat.

Visiting hooker Jack Knight was sin-binned just before the break and he was joined by Saxons' scrum-half Louis Silver and Blackheath winger James Stephenson at the start of the second period.

Flourish

Windsor edged the visitors to within five points with a second penalty before Stourbridge started to turn the screw with their late flourish.

Bressington started the ball rolling with a penalty kick from in front of the posts and from then on there was no stopping the home side. Jamie Hearn scorched in for a second Stourbridge try on 68 minutes following good work from Thinus Delport and the former Springbok international was again in the thick of things five minutes later, this time linking with Bressington on the opposite wing to allow Tom Jarvis to race in.

Not even a yellow card for Rodley could knock the Saxons off their stride and prop Will Davis ran in from 15 metres for the bonus try, Bressington adding the extras to bring his personal tally to 16 points.

Replacement Matt Vaughan broke clear for a late consolation score for the visitors, converted by Windsor, which did not take the gloss off a very good home performance.

Sports finally Trumped

Bustleholme 4 Dudley Sports 2

FOUR second-half goals gave Bustleholme revenge for the defeat inflicted by Dudley Sports back in August.

The hosts made hard work of clinching victory despite playing some decent football as they battled back from a two-goal deficit.

Sports led at the break after Kevin Vogely was gifted two goals.

A change of keepers for the home side during the interval saw Jake Bedford make his debut although in truth he didn't have a save to make as Bustleholme hit back.

They dragged themselves back into the contest on 70 minutes when an Ash Grainger corner found Mark Willet who finished well.

In the 82nd minute, after good work from Connor Scott, substitute Ryan Trumpeter lashed home a 25-yard piledriver.

Three minutes later Trumpeter headed in his second and Matty Jukes fired home just before the whistle.

Yeltz fall close to bottom

Weymouth 3 Halesowen 0

HALESOWEN dropped to within a point of the foot of the table after being outclassed by Weymouth.

The home side went for the jugular from the outset with Warren Byerley heading against the crossbar from Jamie Beasley's fourth minute corner. Ben Gerring was then thwarted by a fine stop from Halesowen goalkeeper Simon Flower as the hosts forced eight corners in the first half-hour.

The Terras eventually went ahead in the 39th minute when debutant Charlie Clough headed home Beasley's cross. Byerley curled home the second and third came from the penalty spot.

Old boy Swann is back to haunt the Robins

MENSAH KINCH and Mark Swann came back to haunt their former club with two goals apiece as AFC Wulfrunians hammered Dudley Town.

The last time Kinch and Swann found themselves on the same scoresheet was a year ago when Dudley won 3-1 victory at champions-elect Ellesmere Rangers.

AFC Wulfrunians 6 Dudley Town 1

However, their latest double act led to a less pleasant outcome for the Robins.

Neil Perks' rebuilding job continued with the inclusion of no fewer than five debutants: Goalkeeper Matt Rodgers, defenders Joe O'Neil and Chris Whitaker, midfielder Greg Thornton and Croatian-born forward Dreniz Bala who linked up with the recently returned Ricki Dudley.

The first half turned out to be an entertaining contest between two evenly matched sides.

Bala saw his shot hooked off the line by Graham Ashton and Matt Martin's looping header agonisingly landed on the roof of the net.

It was Kinch who grabbed the first of the afternoon for Wulfrunians when a fine pass from midfield freed him on the right and he fired past Rodgers.

Just before the break Dudley were dealt a cruel blow when a defensive mix-up between Denis Robinson, Thornton and Rodgers allowed Kinch to put a foot in and make it 2-0.

Swann netted against his former club just two minutes after the restart.

But from there on Town rallied and cut the deficit on 51 minutes when Ricky Martin lashed home.

However the final half-hour of the game turned into a nightmare for the visitors, with substitute Ade Bandele first ending the contest to make it 4-1.

Worse was to follow with 11 minutes remaining when Bandele grabbed his brace after some trickery from livewire substitute Nathaniel Lawson. Swann headed in the sixth.

The Stourbridge Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Wolverhampton on Thursday, February 3, 2011.

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